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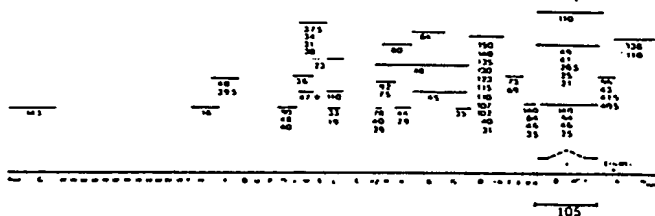
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⑤④ **DNA sequences of the EBV genome, recombinant DNA molecules, processes for producing EBV-related antigens, diagnostic compositions and pharmaceutical compositions containing said antigens.**

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Described are DNA sequences of the EBV genome coding for EBV-related antigens, recombinant DNA molecules containing said DNA sequences, vector/host systems for cloning and expression of said DNA sequences, EBV-related antigens and methods for their preparation, diagnostic and pharmaceutical compositions containing said DNA sequences and antigens respectively (Fig. 2).

Mapping of mRNA's relative to the EBV 895-8 genome.



47* from translation in vitro correlates with
p54 from in vivo labelling

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DNA sequences of the EBV genome, recombinant DNA molecules,
processes for producing EBV-related antigens, dia-
gnostic compositions and pharmaceutical compositions
containing said antigens

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Technical field of invention

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This invention relates to DNA sequences of the EBV genome
coding at least for parts of EBV-related antigens to be used in
methods and diagnostic and pharmaceutical compositions referred to
below and methods of localising and isolating at least part of the
respective DNA sequences.

30

Furthermore the invention relates to recombinant DNA
molecules i.e. cloning and expression vectors useful for
the production of antigenic determinants of said EBV-
related antigens after introduction of these vectors
into appropriate hosts such as bacteria, yeasts and
mammalian cells.

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Finally this invention relates to methods and compositions or kits, respectively, for a rapid, simple, highly sensitive and highly specific determination of antibodies directed to EBV-related antigens. In these tests different antigens of EBV are used to detect specific antibody classes in the patient's serum, directed to these antigens. This detection allows fairly reliable conclusions as to the status of infection of the serum donor such as preinfection, fresh infection, chronic infection, convalescence and neoplastic condition. Furthermore, this invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions, e.g. vaccines containing said antigens useful for prophylaxis and therapy of EBV-related diseases.

Background Art

The herpesviruses (Herpetoviridae) are enveloped icosahedral capsids with an overall diameter of 150 nm. The viral genome consists of a double-stranded DNA with a molecular weight of approximately 10^8 D. Human herpesviruses are Herpes simplex I ("fever blisters"), Herpes simplex II (genital herpes), Varicella-Zoster (chickenpox, shingles), Cytomegalovirus (congenital abnormalities, e.g. microcephaly), and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) (infectious mononucleosis (IM), Burkitt's lymphoma (BL), nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC))

Herpesviruses display a remarkable propensity for establishing latent infections which may persist for the life of the host. After the primary infection the virus may remain quiescent, being demonstrable only sporadically or not at all, until it is reactivated by one of several known types of stimulus, such as irradiation or immunosuppression. Such exacerbations of endogenous disease may take the form of a crop of vesicles on the skin in the case of herpes simplex or zoster, or more generalized effects in the case of cytomegalovirus or EBV. The capacity to persist

1 indefinitely as a latent infection enables these viruses
to survive in nature for a long time. During the last
years, attention has turned to the correlation of human
cancer and EBV.

5

Epstein-Barr-Virus (EBV), infections and their conse-
quences

EBV causes infectious mononucleosis as a primary disease.

10 Predominantly it affects children or young adults. More
than 90 % of the average adult population is infected by
EBV that persists for lifetime in peripheral B-lymphocytes.
The virus is lifelong produced in the parotid gland and spread
via the oral route.

15

Serology suggests that EBV might be involved in causing
two neoplastic diseases of man, African Burkitt's lymphoma
(BL) and nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC). Infectious mono-
nucleosis is a consequence of primary infection by EBV.

20 It is not a life-threatening disease if additional risk
factors are absent.

However, the subjective feeling of sickness, frequently
for extended periods (in the order of several weeks), and
25 the necessity to avoid physical stress due to the drastical-
ly increased risk of splenic rupture would certainly
suggest a control of this disease.

The clinical diagnosis of infectious mononucleosis is
30 usually derived from a combination of the following para-
meters:

1. High leukocyte count ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 and
reaching up to 50,000
2. 10 % atypical cells
- 35 3. lymphadenitis
4. fever.

1 Patients with infectious mononucleosis
shed EBV in their saliva. Virus shedding does not require
special prevention against spreading the disease as epi-
demics and infection of persons in close contact are rare
5 (A.S. Evans, "The transmission of EB viral infections.
Viral Infections in Oral Medicine.", edited by J. Hooks,
G. Jordan, Elsevier North Holland Amsterdam, p. 211
(1982)). Virus shedding does not stop with recovery from
disease and at least 60 % (possibly up to 100 %) of the
10 adult population shed at least low levels of EBV which
is produced lifelong in epithelial cells of the salivary
duct of the parotid gland (H. Wolf, M. Haus, E. Wilmes,
"Persistence of Epstein-Barr virus in the parotid gland",
J. Virol. 51 (1984)).

15 About 1 % of the infectious mononucleosis cases show
complications either already at the onset of the disease
or as a late consequence. Most complications are due to
autoimmune mechanisms and are in some cases indiscernable
20 from graft versus host disease, a mechanism by which
the body might clear itself from the excess of EBV con-
verted proliferating B-cells.

If the T-cell response is insufficient, e.g. due to
25 circumstances like treatment with high doses of Cyclo-
sporin A in combination with corticosteroids or due to
AIDS or a certain genetic predisposition as described by
Purtilo (Duncan's syndrome, X-chromosome-linked lympho-
proliferative disease (XLP); D.T. Purtilo, K. Sakamoto,
30 V. Barnabei, J. Seeley, T. Bechtolq, G. Rogers, J. Yetz,
S. Harada and the XLP-collaborators: "Epstein-Barr virus-
induced diseases in boys with the X-linked lympho-pro-
liferative syndrome (XLP). Update on studies of the
registry." Am. J. Med. 73, p. 49 (1982)), infected
35 B-cells may have a chance to escape from host control and
grow without limitation as they would do when being

- 1 cultivated in vitro. The consequences have been described
as BL-like disease in cases of AIDS patients (J.L. Ziegler,
R.C. Miner, E. Rosenbaum, E.T. Lennette, E. Shillitoe,
C. Casavant, W.L. Drew, L. Mintz, J. Gershor, J. Green-
5 span, J. Beckstead, K. Yamamoto, "Outbreak of Burkitt's-
like lymphoma in homosexual men.", Lancet 2, p. 631 (1982))
or as a polyclonal lympho-proliferative disease for XLP-
patients (D.T. Purtilo et al., supra) or kidney transplant
recipients (D.W. Hanto, G. Frizzera, D.T. Purtilo, K.
10 Sakamoto, J.L. Sullivan, A.K. Saemundsen, G. Klein, R.L.
Simmons, J.S. Najarian, "Clinical spectrum of lympho-pro-
liferative disorders in renal transplant recipients and
evidence for the role of Epstein-Barr virus.", Cancer
Res. 41, p. 4253 (1981)).

15

- The positive and fast identification of infectious mono-
nucleosis or acute EBV infection is especially important
in cases where a differential diagnosis to leukemia or,
in case of transplant recipient, to graft rejection crisis
20 is necessary. In these cases, a false diagnosis may lead
to incorrect therapy, which may have serious, even life-
threatening effects.

25 Prevention of primary disease caused by EBV

- Infectious mononucleosis seems to be unknown in areas like
the Philippines or Malaysia (D.S.K. Tan, "Absence of
infectious mononucleosis among Asians in Malaya.",
30 Med. J. Malaya 21, p. 358 (1967)) where infection by EBV
occurs very early in life. Almost the whole population
has antibodies at the age of 2-10 years at the latest.
Clinical symptoms seem to be a consequence of juvenile
or adult infection. It can be assumed that a vaccine-
35 primed organism will be infected without significant
clinical symptoms and that the consequences often fatal
in the risk groups listed above could be eliminated by
a vaccine.

1 Burkitt's Lymphoma and EBV

The development of Burkitt's lymphoma is linked to chromosomal rearrangements. Not all cases contain EBV
5 genomes in the tumor cells. However, at least in areas with high incidence, 97 % of these neoplasias are EBV-related and a control of EBV infection is likely to reduce the risk of developing Burkitt's lymphoma.

10 Nasopharyngeal carcinoma as a possible "secondary disease" related to EBV

The other disease where EBV shows a 100 % association is nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) ("The Biology of
15 Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma", UICC technical report series, vol. 71, edited by M.J. Simons and K. Shanmugaratnam, International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, p. 1 (1982)). NPC most frequently starts at the fossa of Rosenmueller (Recessus pharyngeus) at the postnasal space. Frequently
20 patients are hospitalized only after the first typical metastases have developed in the cervical lymph nodes.

In some areas of Southern China and amongst Chinese in
25 Singapore and Malaysia, NPC is the most frequent neoplasia of man with an incidence of up to 40 per 100,000 per year. In other parts of the world, like Borneo or Tunisia the incidence is also high. In most other areas, the incidence is around 0,2 per 100,000 per year which represents about
30 4 % of ear, nose and throat (ENT)-tumors. The age distribution shows a clear single peak around the age of 40 to 50 in almost all high-risk areas. In Borneo and to some extent in Tunisia, a remarkable second peak has, however, been observed at an early age ranging from 5 to 15 years
35 (M. J. Simons et al., supra).

- 1 Environmental factors including traditional Chinese
medicine may be responsible for the increased risk of
nasopharyngeal carcinoma in certain, predominantly
Chinese, populations of Southern Asia (H. Wolf, "Biology
5 of Epstein-Barr virus in: "Immune deficiency and cancer:
Epstein-Barr virus and lymphoproliferative malignancies",
ed. D. Purtilo, Plenum Press, p. 233 (1984)).

Control of EBV-related neoplasia

10

There are three possible basic strategies to control
neoplasia:

1. Early detection followed by therapy,
2. delay of onset of disease ideally beyond the average
15 lifespan, and
3. prevention.

These goals may be achieved also in multifactorial
diseases such as many neoplasias. Incidence of disease
may be reduced by eliminating one or more of the essential
20 factors which are not necessarily sufficient by them-
selves to cause the disease, or by reducing factors which
promote the manifestation of neoplastic conditions.
The use of the specific virus-related antigens of this
invention, or antibodies or genetic materials as tools
25 for early diagnosis of virus-related tumors, might
facilitate the elimination of essential factors.

Selection of EBV-related gene products for diagnosis of 30 EBV-related NPC

- A. Primary infection with EBV: Development of antibodies
against VCA (viral capsid antigen), EA (early antigen)
and EBNA (Epstein-Barr Nuclear Antigen)

35

1 EBV infects B-lymphocytes during acute or primary in-
 fection (mononucleosis). Due to the lack of immune res-
 5 ponde, a number of cells enter into the lytic cycle
 and produce a full set of viral antigens which are shed
 into the blood stream during cytolysis. Against these
 antigens, specific antibodies will be synthesized by
 the host's immune system (Table A).

10 Probably not all B-lymphocytes are capable of supporting
 a fully lytic infection due to a cellular factor which
 prevents expression of EBV. These cells are latently
 carrying EBV genomes for the rest of the host's life.

15 Table A

DISEASE	VCA:	IgG	IgM	IgA	EA	EBNA	MA ¹
NORMAL ADULTS		+	-	-	-	+	+
20 ACUTE ADULTS (EARLY)		++	+	-	+	-	-
CHRONIC INFECTION		+	+	-	±	±	±?
REACTIVATION		+	+	-	+	+	+
25 XLP ²		+	-	-	±	(+)	?
NPC		++	-	+	+(D)	+	++
BL		++	-	-	+(R)	+	+

² XLP AS AN EXAMPLE OF IMMUNOLOGICALLY DEPRIVED HOSTS

¹ DETERMINED BY IMMUNOPRECIPITATION OF GP 240/200

(MA; membrane antigen)

30 B. Convalescence: Disappearance of antibodies against
 EA and maintenance of antibodies against VCA and EBNA

35 As the immune defense mechanisms of the body remove the

lytically infected cells from the circulation, the antibody levels will start to fall during the convalescent phase. After a certain period, anti-EA-antibodies disappear. However, as mentioned above, EBV is produced in the parotid gland. The viral particles and intracellular virus-associated antigens including EA will be shed into the saliva and reach the oropharynx. Here the viral particles bind to the B-lymphocytes and are presented to the body as antigens, thus the antibody titer against VCA is maintained. Since EA cannot bind to the lymphocytes it will be degraded by proteases and therefore will not be available to the immunesystem as an antibody-inducing antigen.

The circulating lymphocytes that are latently infected by EBV contain EBNA. At the end of their life cycle these cells disintegrate and release EBNA into the blood stream. Therefore antibodies to this antigen will persist.

Thus, due to the EBV-production in the parotid gland and to the release of EBNA from latently infected B-cells, sera of convalescents will have low anti-VCA and anti-EBNA IgG-antibody levels (see Table A, supra).

In addition EA released from rare B lymphocytes which may enter a lytic cycle may be an inferior antigen and may not give rise to antibody levels detectable with the test systems used.

In combination with the known sequence of appearance of antibody classes, specifically the early presence of IgM antibodies followed by IgG antibodies, the various antigen classes of primary disease caused by EBV can be utilized for improved diagnostic procedures. However, available test systems which are mainly based on cellular antigens or cell derived antigens have serious limitations. This concerns the sensitivity, especially for detection of IgM antibodies and also unspecific reactions.

1 C. EBV-related antibodies in individuals suffering of NPC:

5 The first suggestive evidence that Epstein-Barr virus might be causally related to nasopharyngeal carcinoma and African Burkitt's Lymphoma was derived from serological data (for review see M.A. Epstein, B.G. Achong, "The Epstein-Barr Virus" Springer Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, New York (1979)).

10 Using mainly indirect immunofluorescence on cells producing virus or at least early viral antigens, significantly higher antibody titers to these antigens were found in patients' sera. These first tests which detected unspecified immunoglobulin classes against a group of proteins named Early Antigen (EA) and another group of proteins named Virus Capsid Antigens (VCA) were helpful for the establishment of a relationship between EBV and these diseases. These tests, however, are of limited value for definite diagnosis of the malignancies from a single serum, and cannot
20 be used for monitoring therapy.

The introduction of antigen and antibody class specific tests, specifically the determination of peripheral IgA antibodies for the two antigen families EA and VCA and
25 also the first attempts to subdivide at least the EA-family (EA, D or R; G. Henle, W. Henle and G. Klein, "Demonstration of 2 distinct components in the early antigen complex of Epstein-Barr Virus infected cells", Int. J. Cancer 8, p. 272 (1971)) achieved remarkable improvements of the diagnostic and prognostic value of the tests.
30

In the areas of high risk for NPC, 1% of the adult population has IgA antibodies for EBV-Capsid antigen (VCA).

- 1 Three percent of this group has NPC upon clinical examination
and, with the exception of terminal cases, there were no
anti-VCA IgA negative cases detected. Out of the IgA
anti-VCA positives, about 1% per year developed NPC in
5 a 3 year follow up. A test of this quality, if available
as a highly specific automat-readable ELISA test, would
provide an excellent "first step" screening for a popu-
lation of extreme risk.
- 10 Detection of EB virus IgA/VCA antibody is helpful for
diagnosis of NPC (see table on page 14), and of special value for the
detection of early stages. For example, in Wuzhou City (China;
high risk area for NPC), the frequency of NPC detected
by serological mass survey revealed a much higher per-
15 centage of patients in stages I (42%) and II (48%) than
otherwise detected in outpatient clinics (1.7% stage I
and 3.0 % stage II). The chance of survival is clearly
related to the stage at which therapy is begun. The sur-
vival rates for stage I are (according to Shanghai Tumor
20 Hospital) 93%, for stage II 75%, and are very low for
more advanced stages. Therefore it is possible to reduce
the mortality rate of NPC through early detection and
early treatment.
- 25 IgA antibodies to the early antigen complex of EBV can be
detected in 40 % to 70 % of NPC patients, depending on the
method used. These antibodies are virtually absent in the
non-tumorbearing population. Such test of the tumorbearing
individuals should be of great importance for the decision
to start therapy, and its value would be even higher if the
30 sensitivity could be enhanced to allow detection of disease
in closer to 100 % of the tumor patients.

The detection rate of NPC among IgA/VCA antibody-positive
35 individuals is 1.9 % and that of IgA/EA individuals is
30-40 %. These data indicate that the IgA/EA antibody

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test is more specific for the detection of NPC, but not as sensitive as IgA/VCA antibody.

A number of laboratories have used the continuous determination of IgA antibodies to EA and VCA to monitor the success of therapy and for early detection of relapse with very good success.

Membrane protein gp 250/350 and its use

Four proteins of the viral envelope constituting the so-called membrane antigen complex (MA) have been described (L.F. Qualtiere, G.R. Pearson, et. al., supra; J. North, A.J. Morgan, M.A. Epstein, "Observations on the EB virus envelope and virus-determined membrane antigen (MA) polypeptides", Int. J. Cancer 26, p. 231 (1980)). Two of these proteins, i.e. gp 250 and gp 350, are antigenically closely related (D.A. Thorley-Lawson and K. Geilinger, "Monoclonal antibodies against the major glycoprotein (gp 250/350) of Epstein-Barr virus neutralize infectivity", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci, USA 77, p. 5307 (1980)). The molecular weight of one component ranges from 200,000 to 250,000 D depending on the cell line where the virus is derived from and the second antigenetically related glycoprotein has a molecular weight of 300,000-350,000 D but is absent in some cell lines. Since these glycoproteins are all related in antigenicity, protein and encoding DNA sequence, they are usually referred to as gp 220/350 or gp 250/350 or simply as gp 250 or gp 350 but meaning the whole family of related glycoproteins.

Glycoprotein 250/350 is able to bind to the EBV receptor of human and some primate B-lymphocytes and to thus initiate the infection of these cells (A. Wells, N. Koide, G. Klein, "Two large virion envelope glycoproteins mediate Epstein-Barr virus binding to receptor-positive cells",

1 J. Virol. 41, p. 286 (1982)). Antibodies against these
proteins neutralize the infectivity of the virus, which
could be demonstrated for human as well as for rabbit
antisera and mouse monoclonal antibodies (D.A. Thorley-
5 Lawson et. al., supra). By the use of monoclonal anti-
bodies it has been shown that blocking of only one anti-
genic determinant present both in gp 350 and gp 250 was
sufficient for virus neutralization. Adsorption of human
sera to immobilized gp 350 and gp 250 removed the
10 neutralizing antibodies (D.A. Thorley-Lawson et. al.,
supra). Thus, there is convincing evidence that
a) gp 350 and gp 250 induce the production of neutra-
lizing antibodies, and that
b) antibodies against gp 350 and gp 250 have neutralizing
15 capacity.
Therefore, this protein as well as its related viral gene
product, gp 350 (with a molecular weight of 350,000), are
candidates for a possible EBV vaccine (A.J. Morgan, M.A.
Epstein, J.R. North, "Comparative immunogenicity studies on
20 Epstein-Barr virus membrane antigen (MA) gp 340 with
novel adjuvants in mice, rabbits and cotton-top tamarins",
J. Med. Virol. 13, p. 281 (1984)). These glycoproteins
are expressed on induced EBV producer cell lines and
can be easily demonstrated after radioiodination of
25 cell surface proteins (L.F. Qualtiere, G.R. Pearson,
"Epstein-Barr virus-induced membrane antigens: immuno-
chemical characterization of Triton X-100 solubilized
viral membrane antigens from EBV superinfected Raji cells",
30 Int. J. Cancer 23, p. 808 (1979)).

1 Application of gp 250/350 for the diagnosis of EBV-related diseases

5 IgG antibodies are absent during the acute phase of primary EBV infection, but present for lifetime after convalescence. IgM antibodies are present in the early stage of the disease and absent during convalescence.

10 IgA antibodies against EBV-antigens are present almost exclusively in NPC patients and can be detected in sera of at least 58 % of these patients even with not very sensitive tests (Zeng Yi and Hans Wolf, manuscript in preparation and example 16, infra).

Comparison of Positive Rate of IgG and IgA Antibodies to VCA and MA from NPC Patients and Normal Individuals

Cases	MA/IgG		MA/IgA		VCA/IgA		EA/IgA	
	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	No.	rate%	No.	rate%	No.	rate%	No.	rate%
NPC Patients 48	48	100	28	58.3	48	100	31	64.6
Normal Individuals 48	47	97.9	0	0	0	0	0	0

* MA/IgG and MA/IgA detected by immunofluorescence test

VCA/IgA and EA/IgA detected by immunoenzymatic test

35 The whole gp 250 molecule or parts of its backbone polypeptide chain can be utilized as reagents in preferentially class-specific antibody detection tests such as passive hemagglutination, counter gel electrophoresis, radio-immunoassays or enzyme-linked immuno-absorbent assays.

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1 Highly specific test antigens allow better signals and
detect otherwise unrevealed low antibody levels of
clinical significance. The use of singular antigenic
sites of the gp 250 instead of the entire gene product
5 may, in some cases, permit a more precise diagnosis
of the disease.

Application of gp 250/350 for prophylaxis and treatment
of EBV-related diseases

10

A. Since infection by EBV early in life only causes sub-
clinical seroconversion, it may be anticipated that
the presence of maternal antibodies or antibodies
induced by a vaccine will influence the clinical
15 manifestation of a primary EBV infection. It is
expected that the vaccination of children or young
adults, preferably before the peak of risk of catching
an EBV infection, reduces effectively the clinical
manifestation of infectious mononucleosis in the
20 population.

B. In all areas with high incidence rates for NPC or BL,
the population shows almost 100 % seroconversion to
EBV within the first one to two years of life.
25 Vaccination will have to take place soon after birth.
If this vaccination is regularly repeated, it will
in all probability prevent EBV infection, delay it
or reduce the biological effects of early primary
infection. Each of these consequences is expected
30 to either prevent the subsequent development of
neoplasia, to delay its onset considerably or to de-
crease the relative risk.

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- 1 C. In NPC, occasional production of viral antigens at
the site of the tumor will stimulate primarily IgA
secreting B-lymphocytes. IgA antibodies are capable
of blocking antibody-mediated cytotoxicity. IgA anti-
5 bodies to viral membrane antigens, such as gp 250,
are present in NPC and BL patients and may not only
be indicators of the disease, but may even contribute
to the failure of the immune system to eliminate the
tumor cells by their masking potential. Large doses
10 of the purified antigen given to tumor patients may
bind IgA and initiate the formation of an excess of
IgG antibodies directed to the same antigen. These
specific IgG antibodies may then compete with
remaining IgA antibodies and allow the elimination
15 of tumor cells by antibody-dependent mechanisms.
- D. Appropriate administration of gp 250 or related pro-
ducts might also enhance the cellular immune mechanisms
and thus restrict the growth of tumors.

20

Production of EBV specific antigens according to the
present invention

- 25 1. As a consequence of all findings, it is one of the objects of this
invention to improve the sensitivity of tests for detection of anti-
body classes and antigen specific antibodies and to develop a system
which allows mass testing and better standardization.
- 30 2. EBV cannot be efficiently produced in a lytic cell
cycle since efficiently infectable cells are not
known at present and because all of the cells used
as source for the preparation of EBV or related anti-
gens are immortalized cells or even tumor derived
cells. In most cell lines retroviruses have been
35 demonstrated. The products isolated from such cultures
therefore are not only very expensive but their use
is also a potential safety risk.

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- 1 3. The application of recombinant DNA technology has
made possible the production of useful polypeptides
by appropriate host cells transformed with recombinant
5 DNA molecules and grown in appropriate culture systems.
4. According to the present invention, recombinant DNA
methods are used to express the genetic information
of the genes or at least of parts of the genes encoding the EBV pro-
10 teins p138, p150 and gp 250/350 in appropriate host cells, such as
bacteria (e.g. the genera Escherichia, Salmonella, Pseudomonas
or Bacillus), yeasts (e.g. the genera Candida, or
Saccharomyces) and mammalian cells (e.g. Vero-cells,
CHO-cells or lymphoblastoid cell lines).
- 15 5. Furthermore, the genomic regions encoding the EBV proteins
p150, p143, p138, p110, p105, p90, p80 and p54 were identified and their
relevance for diagnostic purpose has been identified. Therefore, the
key information for the production of these proteins or antigenic deter-
minants thereof in a manner as demonstrated for the proteins p138, p150
20 and gp 250/350 is also disclosed in the present invention.

Recombinant DNA technology

25 A. Expression control systems

Prokaryotes most frequently are represented by various
strains of E. coli. However, other microbial strains
may also be used, such as bacilli, for example
30 Bacillus subtilis, various species of Pseudomonas,
or other bacterial strains. In such prokaryotic
systems, plasmid vectors which contain replication
sites and control sequences derived from a species
compatible with the host are used. For example, E. coli
35 is typically transformed using derivatives of pBR322,
a plasmid derived from an E. coli species by Bolivar,
et al., Gene 2, p. 95 (1977). pBR322 contains genes for

1 ampicillin and tetracycline resistance, and these markers
can be either retained or destroyed in constructing the
desired vector. Commonly used prokaryotic control
sequences which are defined herein to include pro-
5 moters for transcription initiation, optionally with an
operator, along with ribosome binding site sequences,
include such commonly used promoters as the beta-
lactamase (penicillinase) and lactose (lac) promoter
systems (Chang, et. al. Nature 198, p. 1056 (1977))
10 and the tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel, et
al., Nucleic Acids Res. 8, p. 4057 (1980)). The lambda-
derived P_L promoter and N-gene ribosome binding site
(Shimatake, et al., Nature 292, p. 128 (1981), which
has been made useful as a portable control cassette
15 are further examples. However, any available promoter
system compatible with prokaryotes can be used.

In addition to bacteria, eukaryotic microbes, such
as yeast, may also be used as hosts. Laboratory strains
20 of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, Baker's yeast, are most
used, although a number of other strains are commonly
available. While vectors employing the 2 micron origin
of replication are illustrated (J.R. Broach, Meth.
Enz. 101, p. 307 (1983)), other plasmid vectors suit-
25 able for yeast expression are known (see, for example,
Stinchcomb et al., Nature 282, p. 39 (1979); Tschempe
et al., Gene 10, p. 157 (1980) and L. Clarke et al.,
Meth. Enz. 101, p. 300 (1983)). Control sequences for
yeast vectors include promoters for the synthesis of
30 glycolytic enzymes (Hess et. al., J. Adv. Enzyme Reg. 7,
p. 149 (1968); Holland et al., Biochemistry 17, p. 4900
(1978)). Additional promoters known in the art include
the promoter for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase (Hitzeman
et al., J. Biol. Chem. 255, p. 2073 (1980)), and those
35 for other glycolytic enzymes, such as glyceraldehyde-
3-phosphate dehydrogenase, hexokinase, pyruvate decarboxy-
lase, phosphofructokinase, glucose-6-phosphate iso-

- 1 merase, 3-phosphoglycerate mutase, pyruvate kinase,
triosephosphate isomerase, phosphoglucose isomerase,
and glucokinase. Other promoters, which have the
additional advantage of transcription controlled by
5 growth conditions are the promoter regions for alcohol
dehydrogenase 2, isocytochrome C, acid phosphatase,
degradative enzymes associated with nitrogen metabolism,
and enzymes responsible for maltose and galactose
utilization (Holland, supra).
- 10 Evidence suggests that terminator sequences are desirable at the 3' end of the coding sequences. Such terminators are found in the 3' untranslated region following the coding sequences in yeast-derived genes.
- 15 Many of the vectors illustrated contain control sequences derived from the enolase-I gene containing plasmid peno46 (M.J. Holland et al., J. Biol. Chem. 256, p. 1385 (1981)) or the LEU 2 gene obtained from YEp13 (J. Broach et al., Gene 8, p. 121 (1979)), however, any vector
20 containing a yeast-compatible promoter, origin of replication and other control sequences is suitable.
- It is also, of course, possible to express genes encoding polypeptides in eukaryotic host cell cultures
25 derived from multicellular organisms. See, for example, Cruz and Patterson, editors, "Tissue Cultures", Academic Press (1973). Useful host cell lines include VERO and HeLa cells, and Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells. Expression vectors for such cells ordinarily include
30 promoters and control sequences compatible with mammalian cells such as, for example, the commonly used early and late promoters from Simian Virus 40 (SV 40) (Fiers et al., Nature 273, p. 113 (1978)), or other viral promoters such as those derived from polyoma. Adeno-
35 virus 2, bovine papilloma virus, or avian sarcoma virusses. General aspects of mammalian cell host system transfor-

- 20 -

1 mations have been described by Axel in U.S. Patent No.
4,399,216 issued August 16, 1983. It now appears
also that "enhancer" regions are important in optimizing
expression; these are, generally, sequences found frequently up-
5 stream of the promoter region. Origins of replication
may be obtained, if needed, from viral sources. However,
gene integration into the chromosome is a common
mechanism for DNA replication in eukaryotes, and hence
independently replicating vectors are not required.
10 Plant cells are also now available as hosts, and
control sequences compatible with plant cells such
as the nopaline synthase promoter and polyadenylation
signal sequences (A. Depicker et al., J. Mol. Appl. Gen. 1,
p. 561 (1982)) are available.

15

B. Transformation of suitable hosts

Depending on the host cell used, transformation is done
using standard techniques appropriate to such cells.
20 The calcium treatment employing calcium chloride, as
described by S.N. Cohen, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 69,
p. 2110 (1972) is used for prokaryotes or other cells
which contain substantial cell wall barriers. Infection
with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (C.H. Shaw et al.,
25 Gene 23, p. 315 (1983)) is used for certain plant cells.
For mammalian cells without such cell walls, the
calcium phosphate precipitation method of Graham
and van der Eb (Virology 52, p. 546 (1978)) is pre-
ferred. Transformations into yeast are carried out
30 according to the method of P. van Solingen et al.
(J. Bact. 130, p. 946 (1977)) and C. L. Hsiao et al.
(Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 76, p. 3829 (1979)).
Alternatively, the procedure of Klebe, et al. (Gene 25,
p. 333 (1983)) can be used.

35

1 C. Construction of recombinant cloning and expression
vectors

5 Construction of suitable vectors containing the desired
coding and control sequences employs standard ligation
and restriction techniques which are well understood
in the art. Isolated plasmids, DNA sequences, or
synthesized oligodeoxyribonucleotides are cleaved,
10 tailored and religated in the form desired.

Site specific DNA cleavage is performed by treating
with the suitable restriction enzyme (or enzymes)
under conditions which are generally understood in
the art, and the particulars of which are specified
15 by the manufacturer of these commercially available
restriction enzymes. See, e.g., New England Biolabs,
Product Catalog.

20 If desired, size separation of the cleaved fragments
may be performed by polyacrylamide gel or agarose gel
electrophoresis using standard techniques. A general
description of size separations is found in "Methods
in Enzymology" 65, p. 499-560 (1980).

25 Restriction cleaved fragments may be blunt ended
by treating with the large fragment of E. coli DNA
polymerase I (Klenow) in the presence of the four
deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs). The Klenow
fragment fills in at 5' sticky ends but chews back
30 protruding 3' single strands, even though the four
dNTPs are present. If desired, selective repair
can be performed by supplying only a selected one
or more dNTPs within the limitations dictated by the
nature of the sticky ends. Treatment under appropriate
35 conditions with S1 nuclease results in hydrolysis of
any single-stranded portion.

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1 Synthetic oligonucleotides may be prepared by the
triesther method of Matteucci et al. (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 103,
p. 3185 (1981)) or the diethylphosphoramidite method
5 of Caruthers, described in U.S. Patent No. 4,415,732,
issued November 15, 1983.

Ligations are performed under standard conditions and
temperatures (as described below) using T4 DNA ligase.
10 In vector constructions employing "vector fragments",
the vector fragment is commonly treated with bacterial
alkaline phosphatase (BAP) in order to remove the 5'
phosphate and prevent religation of the vector. BAP
digestions are carried out under standard conditions
(as described below).

15

D. Selection of transformants

In the constructions correct ligations for plasmid
construction are confirmed by transforming E. coli
20 or other suitable hosts with the ligation mixture.
Successful transformants are selected by ampicillin,
tetracycline or other antibiotic resistance or
using other markers depending on the mode of plasmid
construction, as is understood in the art.

25

Brief summary of the invention

The present invention relates to the production of EBV
specific antigens by recombinant DNA technology and their
use in diagnosis, prophylaxis and therapy of EBV-related
30 diseases. Therefore, it is an object of this invention
to identify novel Epstein-Barr viral antigens, such as p150,
p143, p138, p110, p105, p90, p80, p54 (G.J. Bayliss, H. Wolf,
infra), which are correlated with Epstein-Barr virus related
35 diseases like nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC), infectious
mononucleosis, and Burkitt's lymphoma (see legend to
Fig. 1 and Fig. 28) by immunological methods.

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- 1 Another object of this invention is the localization and identifica-
tion of genomic regions of EBV, for example as it has been cloned
from B95-8 cells (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville,
Maryland, USA (ATCC) CRL1612) (J. Skare, J.L. Strominger, "Cloning
5 and mapping of BamHI endonuclease fragments of the DNA from the
transforming B95-8 strain of Epstein-Barr Virus", Proc. Natl. Acad.
Sci. USA 77, p3860(1980)) coding for said antigens of diagnostic im-
portance and of relevance for medical purposes. This is
achieved by using the hybrid selection method.
- 10 A further object of the present invention is the sub-
cloning of a genomic region of EBV, for example from
existing libraries of EBV, cloned from B95-8 cells which
encodes at least a part of useful antigens for
15 medical purposes, such as p138 and p150. This is achieved by joining a
subgenomic fragment, e.g. an XhoI-fragment, derived from the
EBV B95-8 subclone pBR322 BamA, (J. Skare et al., supra) to the plas-
mid pUC8 (J. Messing, infra) (pUC635, see Fig. 4).
- 20 Another object of this invention is the production of
proteins by expression of the respective genetic
information in suitable host cells, such as bacteria
(e.g. of the genera Escherichia, Salmonella, Pseudomonas or
Bacillus), yeasts (e.g. of the genera Candida or Saccharomyces) animal
25 cells and human cells (e.g. Vero-cells; CHO-cells; CHO dhfr⁻
cells in combination with an appropriate selection system,
optionally a plasmid carrying a functional dhfr gene as well
as the genetic information for the EBV gene under control
of a suitable regulation sequence; or lymphoblastoid cell
30 lines). The proteins produced by these host cells contain
e.g. p138, p150 or gp250/350-related antigenic determinants
(epitopes) and are, depending on the expression system,
synthesized either as a fusion protein or as a non-fusion
35 protein.

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1 For the production of a fusion protein by bacteria
the expression of the genomic subfragments, for example
that encoding a part of p138 of EBV B95-8 and introduced into
the known plasmid pUC8, was induced e.g. by isopropyl- β -D-thiogalacto-
5 pyranoside (IPTG). The respective expression products
were identified by immunological methods.

Another fusion protein is provided by cleaving subclone
pUC635 with EcoRI and BglII and introducing this frag-
ment into the vector plasmid pUC9 (U. R  ther, *infra*). The
10 resulting recombinant plasmid is pUC924 (Fig. 6). The expression
product has a size of about 94 kd.

A further fusion protein is produced by expressing the
genetic information of said XhoI-p138-encoding fragment
of pBR322 BamA in the plasmid pEA305 (E. Amann, J. Brosius,
15 M. Ptashne, "Vectors bearing a hybrid trp-lac-promoter
useful for regulated expression of cloned genes in *E. coli*",
Gene 25, p. 167 (1983)). After putting the p138 related
information into a proper reading frame relative to pEA305,
the clone pMF924 synthesizes a fusion protein that contains
20 a part of the λ -repressor protein c_1 (Fig. 7).

Still another fusion protein is provided by cloning a 3.0 kb
genomic XhoI-fragment containing p138-related genetic in-
formation 3' to a hybrid trp-lac promoter (as described
25 by F. Amann et. al., *supra*). For this purpose the known plasmid
pKK240-11 was used. The resulting clone pKK378 synthesizes
a fusion protein that is composed of an aminoterminal
methionine residue followed by p138 related DNA sequences
(Fig. 8).

30 Still another object of the present invention is to pro-
vide fusion proteins, non-fusion proteins or oligopeptides
which contain only the antigenic determinant protein sub-
regions of viral proteins like p138. For this purpose
35 the determinants of the protein are located by a computer-
directed analysis, using a computer program developed by

- 25 -

1 us for the Digital Equipment VAX 11/750 computer. A similar
program has been used for other problems and another com-
puter by G.H. Cohen, B. Dietzschold, M. Ponce de Leon,
D. Long, E. Golub, A. Varrichio. L. Pereira, R.J. Eisenberg,
5 "Localization and synthesis of an antigenic determinant of
Herpes simplex virus glycoprotein D that stimulates the
production of neutralizing antibody", J. Virol 49, p. 102
(1984). By cloning the respective fragments into vectors
like pUC8 or pUR288 (U. Rüther et al., infra) plasmids
10 as pUR600 and pUR540 were obtained. The produced large
and small fusion proteins are investigated by gel
electrophoresis and immunoblotting experiments. The clo-
ning experiments in pUR288 were done for stabilizing
the small p138-related polypeptides.
15

A further object of the present invention is the expression
of polyantigens composed of antigenic determinants of
several different EBV-serotypes. For that purpose the
20 corresponding DNA fragments are linked and introduced
in a suitable vector. The expression products are fusion
and non-fusion EBV-specific polyantigens.

Further fusion proteins containing p150-related antigenic
determinants were obtained by cloning and expression of the
25 corresponding DNA sequences in pUR plasmids and pUC plasmids.
The obtained constructs were the recombinant plasmids
pUR290CXH580, pUR290DBX320, pUR292DBB180, pUR290DTT700,
pURDTT740, pUR290DTP680, and pUR288DPP320.

30 Another object of the present invention is the construction
of new expression vectors, such as pUC600 and pUC601
which contain a part of the coding region of the viral
protein p138. If DNA sequences are introduced 3' to this
35 sequence into the vector, the expression products are
stabilized by the p138-specific aminoacid sequence and
protected against protease degradation.

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- 1 Still another object of this invention is the modification
of said expression vectors by introducing a DNA-sequence
coding for three to fifteen Arginine residues and at
least one stop codon 3' of the cloning site of said ex-
5 pression vectors and furthermore positioned in an
appropriate reading frame. The obtained vector is pUCARG601.
If DNA-sequences coding for proteinaceous material are
inserted into this expression vector the expression
products will be fusion proteins carrying said Arginine
10 residues at their carboxy terminus, such as those
fusion proteins encoded by plasmids pUCARG1140 (see
Fig. 12a)) and pUCARG680.
- 15 Thus it is an object of this invention to provide a simple
method for isolating proteins useful for diagnosis, prophylaxis and the-
rapy such as EBV p138 or related polypeptides or oligopeptides
(antigens) from the host cell lysate according to the
method of H. M. Sassenfeld, S.J. Brewer ("A polypeptide
20 fusion designed for the purification of recombinant pro-
teins", Bio/Technology 2, p. 76 (1984)).
By introduction of said Arginine residues ^{more}
the net charge of the expressed proteins becomes/positive
and after lysis of the host cells the oligo-arginine
25 linked proteins are isolated by a SP Sephadex C-25 column
chromatography. Due to the oligo-arginine group the EBV
specific proteins are eluted at a high NaCl-concentration.
This eluate is then treated with carboxypeptidase B which
degrades carboxy-terminal lysine and arginine residues.
30 Finally another SP Sephadex C-25 chromatography is carried
out wherein the EBV-related proteins are eluted at low
salt concentrations (see Fig.16). It is evident, however,
that this procedure may be used also for the purifi-
cation of proteins secreted into the medium.
35

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1 It is also evident that other established methods for
protein-purification such as molecular sieving or affinity
chromatography on ion exchange columns or columns loaded
5 with specific antibodies to the expressed proteins can be
used as additional or alternate purification methods.
For the production of non-fusion proteins which essen-
tially contain amino acid sequences of the naturally
occurring proteins or parts thereof the recombinant plas-
10 mids of the present invention may be modified. If an
oligonucleotide linker is inserted between the bacterial
protein encoding region and the EBV-related protein encoding
region of the expression vector, the amino acid sequence
corresponding to the oligonucleotide linker becomes part
15 of the expressed fusion protein. After isolation of this
fusion protein from the transformants expressing it, it is
cleaved either by amino acid sequence specific proteases
in the introduced aminoacid linker or, if the amino acid
linker comprises peptide bonds sensitive to acid cleavage, by
20 treatment with acids, e.g. formic acid.

A further object of this invention is the cloning of a
genomic region of EBV coding for at least a part of
the specific viral antigen gp 250 and gp 350. This is
achieved by joining a subgenomic PstI-PstI fragment of the
25 EBV genome from the cell strain B95-8 (ATCC CRL 1612) (R. Baer et al.,
infra) contained in pBR322 BamI (J. Skare et al, supra) to the plasmid
pUC8 (J. Messing et al., infra). The resulting recombinant plasmid
is designated as pUCLP1.9 (see Fig. 19).

30 For the production of a fusion protein by bacteria, a
genomic subfragment coding for a part of gp 250 and gp 350
of EBV B95-8 was cloned into the vector pUR 290 (U.
Rüther et al., infra) which carries a region of the lacZ
gene coding for the enzyme β -galactosidase (pURLP1.9,
35 see Fig. 20). The respective expression product was
purified and identified by immunological methods.

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1 Still another object of the present invention is to provide fusion proteins or non-fusion proteins which contain only the antigenic determinant protein subregions of gp 250 and gp 350. For this purpose the antigenic
5 determinants of the proteins were localized by a computer-directed analysis using a computer program developed by us for the Digital Equipment VAX 11/750 computer.

The respective DNA-fragments are then cloned in a conventional
10 expression vector such as pUR (β -galactosidase) (U. R  ther, et al., infra). Plasmids obtained were e.g. pURLEP600 and pURLXP390 (see Fig. 27).

Furthermore, the N-terminal antigenic determinant of gp250/350 was expressed as a fusion protein in a
15 pUC vector (pUCLEP600, see Fig. 27).

Another fusion protein is provided by cloning a DNA-fragment coding for the N-terminal antigenic determinant of gp 250 and gp 350 into the expression vector pUCARG601 mentioned above.

20 A further object of the present invention is the expression of polyantigens containing several antigenic determinants of gp 250 and gp 350 located by said computer analysis. For this purpose the corresponding DNA fragments
25 are linked and introduced in a suitable vector. The expression products are fusion and non-fusion EBV-specific polyantigens.

A final object of the present invention is the utilization
30 of either said EBV-related proteins or subregions thereof or, if suitable, EBV-related DNA fragments or clones, for the production of diagnostic compositions (kits) useful in clinical diagnosis or scientific research. These tests are based on principles as ELISA (Enzyme-linked immuno sorbent assay), RIA (Radio immuno assay) or the
35 indirect hemagglutination assay. Furthermore, the EBV-

related proteins can be used, e.g. for monitoring vaccination programs, analyzing epidemiological problems, for patients treatment, and for the production of vaccines for prophylaxis and therapy of EBV-related diseases, such as mononucleosis, Burkitt's lymphoma and nasopharyngeal carcinoma. Vaccines can be manufactured according to conventional methods. Unit doses are filled in vials optionally together with a conventional adjuvant such as aluminium hydroxide. Alternatively the product may be administered in the form of aggregates with liposomes. Patients may be vaccinated with a dose sufficient to stimulate antibody formation and revaccinated after one month and after 6 months.

Finally the proteins are useful for prophylaxis and therapy of EBV-related diseases, because they are able to modulate the immune response in patients suffering from diseases such as NPC, chronic infectious mononucleosis or EBV-related Burkitt's lymphoma.

Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1: Autoradiography of an immunoprecipitation of EBV-specific sera derived from patients suffering from mononucleosis and NPC.

The immunoprecipitated ^{35}S -labelled proteins were separated by a SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and an X-ray-film was exposed to the gel.

The sources of the different sera used for precipitation are given at the bottom of the respective regions of the autoradiography. The control, designated "pool", contains all of the immunoprecipitable EBV-specific proteins.

It can be taken from the autoradiography that at least antibodies to p138, p105 and p80 are present in each of the NPC sera and only in some of the other EBV-infection specific sera. In analogy, antibodies to p54 are significant for fresh EBV infection (infectious mononucleosis) as compared to convalescent state. Antibodies to p150, p143, p110, p90 are also present in convalescent sera of healthy individuals and can serve as markers for immunity or, in connection with IgM specific tests, for fresh EBV infection or, in connection with IgA, for a specific test for EBV-related neoplasia (NPC and BL).

Figure 2: Mapping of mRNA's relative to the EBV B95-8 genome.

The BamHI restriction sites of the EBV B95-8 genome are given at the bottom of the figure and the respective restriction fragments are designated by upper and lower case letters. The mRNA's of the proteins localized by hybrid-selection to individual BamHI restriction fragments are indicated by numbers and lines. It can be taken from the figure, that the gene of p138 was correlated to the BamA-fragment.

Figure 3: DNA sequence of the leftward reading frame of BamA encoding p138.

The sequence shown is the respective negative strand. The p138 encoding region starts at nucleotide position 182 and ends at nucleotide position 3565. Restriction sites used for cloning of fragments of this coding region are indicated.

Figure 4: Restriction map of the plasmids pUC635 and pUC5130.

The size of the vector pUC8 is 2.7 kb. The cloning site 3' of the lacUV5 β -galactosidase promoter and operator (PO) contains EcoRI(E), BamHI(B), SalI(S), PstI(P), and HindIII(H) site. The β -lactamase gene is indicated by AMP. The 3.0 kb and 3.3 kb XhoI-fragments of the p138 coding region are inserted into the SalI site of pUC8. The insertion is indicated by an open bar. pUC635 contains the 3.0 kb XhoI-fragment in a correct reading frame relative to the β -galactosidase gene, whereas pUC6130 contains the 3.3 kb XhoI-fragment in the opposite orientation.

Figure 5: Expression of the proteins encoded by plasmids pUC635, pUC924, pMF924, and pKK378.

Lane 1: of the immunostained Western-blot shows the proteins isolated from bacteria transformed with pUC8 and induced with IPTG.

Lane 2: proteins of pUC924 transformed bacteria

Lane 3: proteins of pKK378 transformed bacteria

Lane 4: proteins of pMF924 transformed bacteria

Lane 5: proteins of pUC635 transformed bacteria

The size of the fusion protein was estimated to be 75kD (lane 2), 110 kD (lane 3), 90 kD (lane 4) and 135 kD (lane 5).

Figure 6: Restriction map of the plasmid pUC924.

The size of the vector pUC9 is 2.7 kb. The cloning site 3' of the lacUV5 β -galactosidase promoter and operator (PO) contains an EcoRI(E), BamHI(B), SalI(S), PstI(P), and HindIII(H) site. The β -lactamase gene is indicated by AMP.

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1 The 2.6 kb BglIII/EcoRI-fragment of pUC635 is inserted
between the BamHI and EcoRI sites. The abbreviation of
BglIII is "Bg".

5 Figure 7: Restriction map of the plasmid pMF924.

The 2.6 kb BamHI/HindIII-fragment of pUC924 was inserted
into the BamHI and HindIII restriction sites of pEA3o5
which are located 3' of the hybrid trp-lac promoter
10 (tac) and the aminoterminal coding region of c_1 (λ -repressor).

Figure 8: Restriction map of the plasmid pKK378.

15 The 3.3 kb BamHI/HindIII-fragment of pUC613o was inserted
into the HindIII-site of the vector pKK24o-11 using a
345 bp BamHI/HindIII-fragment of pBR322 as a linker (which
is indicated by a heavy black line). Thus the p138 en-
coding fragment is located 3' of the hybrid trp-lac
promoter (tac) and an ATG start codon.

20

Figure 9: Secondary structures of p138.

Computer plot of Chou-Fasman calculation of the p138
secondary structure. Additionally, the hydrophobic
25 (closed circles) and hydrophilic (open circles) regions
are indicated.

Antigenic sites can be expected in hydrophilic regions
with a β -turn. This situation is given in the p60o region
30 and at the carboxy-terminus of the protein.

The regions subcloned into the vectors pUC8 and pUR288
are indicated.

35

Figure 10: Expression products of bacteria transformed with the plasmid pUR carrying PstI fragments of p138.

- A. A coomassie brilliant blue stained SDS polyacrylamide slab gel analysis of lysates of IPTG induced bacteria carrying the various plasmids is shown. Fusion proteins with molecular weights between 120 and 150 kd are indicated with a closed circle. Track M molecular weight markers tracks pUR400-pUR540 lysates of bacteria carrying plasmids containing the regions of p138 as shown in Fig. 3.
- B. An enzyme-linked immunoassay of proteins transferred from a gel (similar to that shown in panel A) onto nitrocellulose paper (Western blot) is shown. In this assay a pool of high titered antiserum was used and after washing, the bound immunoglobulins were visualized by sequential reaction with peroxidase coupled to antibodies against human IgG and diaminobenzidine. Only fusion proteins from bacteria containing pUR600 and pUR540 show specific reactions. Plasmid pUC635 (as a positive control) contains almost the whole of p138 coding region, however the protein is unstable and is rapidly degraded. pUC8 is the negative control containing the vector plasmid free from EBV derived sequences.

Figure 11: Expression product of bacteria transformed with the pUC subclones carrying PstI-fragments of p138.

An enzyme-linked immunoassay of proteins electrophoretically transferred from a gel onto nitrocellulose paper (Western blot) was carried out. In this assay a pool of high titered antiserum was used and after washing, the bound immunoglobulins were visualized by sequential reaction with peroxidase coupled to antibodies against human IgG and diaminobenzidine. The fusion protein from bacteria containing pUCP600 was stably produced and shows a specific antigenic reaction.

Figure 12: Construction scheme for plasmid pUCARG1140 encoding both antigenic sites found by expression as β -gal fusion proteins

- a) The 5'-PstI site in pUC600 was removed by digesting with SstI (20bp upstream) and HindIII followed by the ligation with pUC12-SstI/HindIII. From this plasmid the insert was removed with EcoRI and PstI and ligated into pUC8-EcoRI. An oligonucleotide coding for five arginines and two stop codons was inserted into the resulting plasmid pUC601 as single-stranded DNA between the 3'-PstI site and HindIII (pUCARG601). In a last step the 540bp PstI fragment encoding the second antigenic determinant from the C-terminus of p138 was inserted by digestion with PstI and ligation. The resulting plasmid contained both antigenic sites in frame followed by five arginine-residues. It was designated as pUCARG1140.
- b) Nucleotide sequence of the oligoarginine linker. The lower strand was synthesized and inserted as a single-strand DNA via bridge formation between the sticky ends of PstI and HindIII.

Figure 13: IPTG-induced expression of the plasmids pUC600, pUC601, pUCARG601 and pUCARG1140 with pUC8 as a control

The upper part shows a Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE. The newly detected proteins are marked by a black dot. The lower part shows the corresponding western blot obtained after immunostaining with serum from NPC patients. In comparison to pUCP600 the EBV-related protein encoded by pUC601 is about 1.5kD smaller due to the lack of 14 aminoacids (6 aminoacids encoded by the pUC-polylinker and 8 from the PstI-SstI fragment). The size of the protein encoded by pUCARG601 is further reduced for about 11kD since the read through into the lacZ region of pUC is inhibited by stop codons present in the inserted oligonucleotide. In pUCARG1140 the size increases to about 42 kD due to the insertion of the 540bp fragment. The protein is stable in bacterial cells.

Figure 14: Distribution and reactivity of the IgG and IgA antibodies of individual NPC-sera against the two epitopes detected in p138.

Lysates of IPTG-induced E.coli cells carrying the indicated plasmids were independently separated on a 12% SDS-PAGE four-times and the proteins were transferred to Nitro-cellulose by Western-blotting. Lanes 1: pUR288 as negative control; lanes 2: pUCARG1140 as a positive control; lanes 3: pUR540; lanes 4: pUR600. Two individual NPC-sera (no. 352 and 354) were incubated with the filters and the bound IgG and IgA antibodies were visualized using peroxidase conjugated anti-human IgG and anti-human IgA rabbit antibodies. The different locations of the proteins in the Western blots, especially of pUCARG1140, result from different electrophoresis times of the SDS-PAGES.

Whereas in NPC-serum no.352 the main reaction of the IgG and IgA antibodies is directed against the P540 epitope from the C-terminus of p138 (see Fig. 9) in serum no.354 the main part of the anti-p138 antibodies recognizes the P600 epitope (see Fig. 9). This indicates that both antigenic sites are necessary for detecting anti-p138 antibodies in sera.

Figure 15: ELISA test using the protein encoded by plasmid pUCARG1140 as antigen.

Row 1 and 3: EBV-negative sera, row 2: NPC pool serum, row 4-13: individual NPC sera. The dilutions tested are indicated at the bottom; left lane: IgG right lane: IgA.

Figure 16: Purification of proteins carrying oligo-arginine groups at their carboxy-terminus.

- A. Sequence of the oligonucleotide encoding five arginine residues and two stop codons. A HindIII-site at the 5'-end and a PstI-site at the 3'-end were generated for the insertion of the oligonucleotide into pUC8.
- B. Purification scheme of insoluble expressed eukaryotic proteins carrying said Arg-linker at their carboxy-terminus.

Fig. 17:

DNA sequence of the leftward reading frame of the Bam L-fragment encoding gp 250/350.

The coding region for the glycoprotein starts at genomic position 92153 and ends at position 89433. The sequence shown is the respective negative strand, beginning with the BamHI site at position 92703. According to the sequence numbering in this figure the gp 350 encoding region is located between position 556 and 3276. A TATAA-box in the region of basepair 520 is marked with ..., the probable poly-adenylation site at position 3290 with +++. The splice donor and splice acceptor sites are indicated by) (--- for donor and ---) (for the acceptor site. A hydrophobic region near the carboxy-terminus of the coding region is marked with ***. Probably this aminoacid sequence serves as an anchor sequence for fixing the protein to the membrane.

Fig. 18:Restriction map and open reading frames of the Bam L-fragment

A. Restriction map:

The positions of the restriction enzymes Bam HI, EcoRI, HindIII and PstI are indicated relative to the nucleotide positions of the Bam L-fragment.

B. Open reading frames:

The open reading frames of the Bam L-fragment are indicated as boxes and given for both polarities of the respective DNA sequence.

Fig. 19:Restriction map of the plasmid pUCLP1.9

The size of pUC8 is 2.7 kb. The cloning region 3' of the LacUV5 β -galactosidase promoter and operator (PO) contains an EcoRI(E), BamHI(B), SalI(S), PstI(P), and HindIII(H) site. The 1.9 kb subfragment of the Bam L-fragment, indicated by an open bar, was inserted into the PstI site. The reading frame has the same orientation as the lacZ-coding part of pUC8 (indicated by a heavy black line).

1 Fig. 20:Restriction map of plasmid pURLP1.9

5 The vector pUR290 has a length of 5.2 kb and consists of the β -lactamase gene (AMP^R) and the origin of replication of pBR322. The β -galactosidase gene is indicated by a heavy black line, the respective promoter-operator region by PO. The restriction enzymes are
10 abbreviated as follows: BamHI (B), ClaI (C), EcoRI (E), HindIII (H), PstI (P), and SalI (S).

The 1.9 kb insert of pUCLP1.9 was introduced between the BamHI and the HindIII site.

15 Fig. 21:DNA- and amino acid sequence of the fusion protein encoded by plasmid pURLP1.9

20 bp 4 - 3069: β -galactosidase
bp 3070 - 3072: pUR290 linker (given in low letters)
bp 3073 - 3088: pUC8 multiple cloning site (BamHI to PstI; given in low letters)
25 bp 3089 - 4985: PstI fragment of gp 350
bp 4986 - 4994: pUC8 multiple cloning site (PstI to HindIII; given in low letters)
bp 4995 - END: pBR322 sequence.

30 Fig. 22:

Expression of the β -gal : gp 350 protein encoded by plasmid pURLP1.9

35 Lane 1 and 2 show a coomassie blue stained PAGE of an uninduced (lane 1) and an IPTG induced (lane 2) pURLP1.9 containing clone.

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Since there are a lot of bands with different molecular weights, it seems that the main part of the protein is incompletely synthesized.

Lane 3 shows a peroxidase-DAB stained Western blot with NPC sera. It is demonstrated that all newly expressed proteins are antigenic, except that band according to the size of 116 kD which corresponds to the β -galactosidase.

The bacterial background bands are due to the high content of antibacterial-antibodies in the serum used.

Fig. 23:

Purification of the β -gal : gp 350 fusion protein encoded by plasmid pURLP1.9

A. Coomassie stained gel; B. Western blot, treated with NPC serum

Lane 1: Uninduced culture

Lane 2: IPTG induced culture

Lane 3: Insoluble proteins of the lysed bacteria, dissolved in 8M urea

Lane 4: β -gal : gp 350 protein containing fractions, pooled after Sepharose 2B-Cl chromatography.

Figure 24: Computer-predicted secondary structure of gp350 comprising the relative values of hydrophilicity (dark circles) and hydrophobicity (grey circles). In the scale given only the loop structures can be seen clearly as line turns of 180°.

Figure 25: Expression of gp350-fragments as 8-gal fusion proteins.

The coomassie blue stained expression products encoded by plasmids pURLEP600 and pURLXP390 are shown in the upper part (pUR288 as control). In the lower part the same probes are shown after immunostaining for demonstrating their reactivity with EBV-positive sera.

Figure 26: Expression of the proteins encoded by pUCLEP600 and pUCARG1230 and their reactivity against EBV-positive sera with pUC8 as control; upper part: comassie-stained SDS-PAGE, lower part immunostained westernblot

Figure 27: Restriction map of the region coding for gp 250/350

The dark bar indicates the region coding for gp 250/350. Furthermore the restriction enzymes used for subcloning, the splice sites, and the inserts of the recombinant expression plasmids constructed according to examples 13 and 15-17 are shown.

Figure 28: DNA sequence and corresponding aminoacid sequence of EBV-related proteins.

A. Protein p54

Nucleotide sequence and derived aminoacid sequence of protein p54 which is identified in in vitro translation as p47 but correlated with immuno-precipitation with monoclonal antibodies

B. Protein p90

C. Protein p143

D. Protein p150

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1 Figure 29: Expression of the β -gal::p150 fusion proteins

IPTG-induced clones indicated on top were separated after
lysis in an 10 % SDS-PAGE and the proteins were stained
5 with Coomassie-blue. As a control pUR288 was applied to
show the size of the β -galactosidase. All clones produce
new proteins larger than the control clone and correspon-
ding to the insert size.

10 Figure 30: Antigenicity of the β -gal::p150 fusion proteins

The same lysates from clones shown in Fig. 29 were trans-
ferred to nitrocellulose and EBV-related antigens were
visualized by immuno staining (see supra). The clone en-
15 coding the N-terminal part reacts strongly.

Figure 31: Map of the p150 encoding region

The p150 encoding region is shown as dark bar. The re-
20 striction sites used for subcloning and the resulting
pUR-clones are also indicated.

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Best mode of carrying out the inventionExample 1Identification of an antigen suitable for diagnosis of NPC

In order to obtain the desired DNA sequences coding for EBV-related antigens of diagnostic significance the following strategy was developed:

Immunoprecipitation of Epstein-Barr viral proteins with various sera from normal adults, patients with fresh infectious mononucleosis or nasopharyngeal carcinoma was used to identify antigens, which are of relevance for the diagnosis of immune status and characteristic for a particular disease (Figure 1). These antigens have been localized on the Epstein-Barr virus genome by hybrid-selected translation. With the use of sequence data, these genes were subcloned from EBV-DNA and expressed in eucaryotic and procaryotic cells.

It was shown by immunoprecipitation that EA and VCA are not single antigens but families of antigens that consist of several polypeptides (G.J. Bayliss, H. Wolf, "The regulated expression of Epstein-Barr virus. III. Proteins specified by EBV during the lytic cycle", J. Gen. Virol 56, p. 105 (1981)).

For the immunoprecipitation the EBV-producing, MA-positive cell line P3HR1, the EBV-positive, non-producing Raji cell line and the EBV-negative cell line BJAB were used. When the cells reached a density of about 10^6 /ml, they were diluted with an equal volume of fresh medium. For induction of EBV antigens, P3HR1 cultures were treated with 40 ng/ml phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate (modified from zur Hausen et al (H. zur Hausen, F.J. O'Neill, U.K. Freese, E. Hecker, "Persisting oncogenic herpes virus induced by the tumor promotor TPA", Nature 272, p. 373 (1978)) and 3 mM butyric acid immediately after subculture. For the labelling of the proteins, the cells were collected by low-speed centrifugation and resuspended at a density of 2×10^6 cells/ml

- 43. -

- 1 in methionine-free MEM culture medium containing between
50 and 100 $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ ^{35}S -methionine. The cells were incubated
at $37^\circ\text{C}/5\%$ CO_2 for 4 h and subsequently washed with cold
Hanks' phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and resuspended in
5 cold IP buffer (1% Triton-X-100, 0.1% SDS; 0.137 M NaCl;
1 mM CaCl_2 ; 1 mM MgCl_2 ; 10% glycerol; 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0;
0.01 % NaN_3 ; 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ phenylmethylsulphonyl fluoride) at a
concentration of 5×10^6 cell/ml. Then the cells were dis-
rupted by sonication and incubated on ice for 60 min. The
10 extracts clarified by centrifugation at 100,000 x g for
30 min at 4°C .
 ^{35}S -methionine labelled extracts were immuno-precipitated
exactly as described (G.J. Bayliss, et al., supra).
15 The results are shown in Fig. 1.

Antibodies to p138, p105, p90 and p80 are present in each
of the NPC sera and only in some of the other EBV-infection
specific sera. In analogy antibodies to p54 (identical
20 to p58 in G.J. Bayliss et al., supra) are significant for
fresh EBV-infection (infectious mononucleosis) as compared
to convalescent state. Antibodies to p150, p143, p110
are also present in convalescent sera of healthy indi-
viduals and can serve as markers for immunity or, in
25 connection with IgM specific tests for fresh EBV-infection
or, in connection with IgA specific tests, for EBV-related
neoplasia (NPC and BL).

The next step was to localize the antigens on the
30 EBV genome. Therefore RNA was prepared by lysing the
EBV-producing cells described above with 4 M guanidine
isothiocyanate and 0.5 M 2-mercaptoethanol two days after
induction (J.M. Chirgwin, A.E. Przybyla, R.J. MacDonald,
W.J. Rutter, "Isolation of biologically active ribonucleic
35 acid from sources enriched in ribonuclease", Biochemistry
18, p. 5294, (1979)). The lysate was centrifuged for one

1 hour at 20.000 rpm (SW 41, Beckmann) and the supernatant
layered on top of 2 ml CsCl density 1.8 g/cm³. After
centrifugation for 17 hours at 150.000 g, the RNA pellet
was extracted with chloroform and precipitated with
5 ethanol. 100 µg total cellular RNA was hybridized for
2.5 hours at 52°C in 65 % formamide and 0.4 M NaCl to
16 µg cloned EBV-DNA, which was sonicated, denatured
and spotted on small nitrocellulose filters. Bound mRNA
was eluted by boiling the filters 90 sec in water. The RNA
10 was translated in vitro with a mRNA dependent rabbit reti-
culocyte lysate. The translation products were immuno-
precipitated using 5 µl of a pool of human NPC sera for one
assay after preincubation with a protein extract from un-
labelled EBV-negative BJA-B cells as previously des-
15 cribed (G.J. Bayliss, G. Deby, H. Wolf, "An immunopreci-
pitation blocking assay for the analysis of EBV induced
antigens", J. Virol. Methods 7, p. 229 (1983)). The
immune complexes were bound on protein A-sepharose, washed,
eluted by boiling the beads in electrophoresis sample
20 buffer and loaded onto SDS-polyacrylamid gels. This
procedure allowed mapping of a number of viral proteins
(Fig. 2) relative to the EBV B95-8 genome. The localization
of p138, is given in Fig. 2. Using sequence data
(R. Baer, A.T. Bankier, M.D. Biggin, P.L. Deininger, P.J.
25 Fawell, T. J. Gibson, G. Hatfull, G.S. Hudson, S.C. Satch-
well, C. Seguin, P.S. Tuffuel, B. Barrell, "DNA-sequence
and expression of the B95-8 Epstein-Barr virus genome",
Nature 310, p. 207 (1984)), appropriate open reading
frames for p138 and p54 were identified (Fig. 2). These
30 open reading frames are completely contained in the right
part of the BamA-fragment at the right end of the viral
genome.

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1 Example 2Cloning of the p138 encoding region

5 According to the sequence data of R. Baer et al., (supra),
there is a large open reading frame contained in the
BamA-fragment of EBV 395-8 which is suitable for encoding
p138. The nucleotide sequence, the corresponding aminoacid sequence
and the respective regulatory elements of the gene of
10 p138 are given in Fig. 3.

50 µg DNA of the plasmid pBR322-BamA (J. Skare et al., supra) were di-
gested with 50 U XhoI (Boehringer) for 2 h at 37°C in a total volume
of 150 µl containing 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 6 mM mer-
15 captoethanol, 6 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.9. 30 µl stop buffer
(10 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM EDTA, 60 % sucrose, 1 % bromphenol-
blue, pH 7.5) were added, the mixture was put onto a
preparative 1 % agarose gel in acetate-buffer (0.04 M Tris-
acetate, 2 mM EDTA, pH 7.6), and electrophoresed for 16 h
20 with 40 V at 4°C. As a size marker HindIII digested λ-phage
DNA (Boehringer) was used. After staining the gel in Tris-
acetate buffer with ethidium bromide (0.5 µg/ml) for
1 h at room temperature (RT), the DNA was visualized by UV-
illumination and the bands corresponding to 3.0 and 3.3 kb
25 were excised (the 3.0 kb XhoI-generated fragment is the
desired fragment, the 3.3 kb XhoI-generated fragment is
a partial digest product (one XhoI restriction site was
not cut)).

30 The DNA of the bands was eluted by putting the agarose
pieces into dialysis bags, adding 3 volumes of Tris-acetate
buffer and electrophoresed for 4 h (100 V, 4°C). Further
purification was carried out by a chromatography with
Elutip D columns (Schleicher & Schuell) according to the
35 procedure recommended by the manufacturer, extraction of
the contained ethidium bromide with isoamylalcohol and pre-

1 cipitation of the DNA by adding 2.5 volumes ethanol and
incubating overnight at -20°C. The DNA was collected by
centrifugation in a Sorvall SS 34 rotor (17.000 rpm, 20
min) and washed with 70 % ethanol. After lyophilization
5 the DNA was dissolved in 15 µl TE buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl,
1 mM EDTA, pH 7.5).

The DNA concentration of the two isolated fragments was
10 estimated by electrophoresing 1 µl each in parallel with
100 ng and 1 µg of pUC8 DNA.

Sali digested DNA of the vector pUC8 (deposited with the Deutsche
Sammlung für Mikroorganismen (DSM), Göttingen, West Germany,
15 under the accession number DSM 3420) (J. Messing, J. Vieira,
of double-digest restriction fragments", Gene 19, p. 269
(1982)) was prepared as described before, except that for
inhibition of religation of the vector during the following
ligase reaction the DNA was treated with alkaline phosphat-
ase (0.5 units (Boehringer), 30 min at 37°C).
20

In the following, the two purified fragments were each
inserted into the cleaved vector (Sali and XhoI produce
the same cohesive ends, i.e. -TGCA-). For this purpose
25 for each of the fragments a ligation reaction was carried
out with 300 ng fragment DNA and 100 ng pUC8 DNA in a total
volume of 20 µl ligase buffer (10 mM Tris, 10 mM MgCl₂,
6 mM mercaptoethanol, 0.6 mM ATP, pH 7.5) containing
1U T4-DNA ligase (Boehringer). After 20 h at 14°C, 80 µl
TE buffer and 200 µl competent E.coli JM83 cells (ATCC 35607) (J. Vieira,
30 J. Messing, "The pUC plasmids, an M13mp7-derived system
for insertion mutagenesis and sequencing with synthetic
universal primers", Gene 19, p. 259 (1982)) were added.
The transformation was done according to the calcium
chloride procedure (M. Mandel, A. Higa, "Calcium dependent
35 bacteriophage DNA infection", J. Mol. Biol. 53, p. 154
(1970)). Then the cells were mixed with 1.5 ml L-broth

(5 g yeast extract, 10 g tryptone, 5 g NaCl) incubated 1.5 h at 37°C, and finally plated on L-broth agar-plates (1.5 %) supplemented with 50 µg/ml Ampicillin (Sigma) and 40 µg/ml X-gal (Boehringer). During this incubation bacteria carrying religated pUC8 molecules yield blue colonies and those which carry recombinant plasmids yield white colonies.

For identification of clones that carry the desired recombinant plasmid, twelve white colonies were picked and grown overnight at 37°C in L-broth. Aliquots of DNA-preparations according to H.C. Birnboim and J. Doly ("A rapid alkaline extraction procedure for screening recombinant plasmid DNA", Nucl. Acids Res. 7, p. 1513 (1979)) were digested by BamHI and HindIII and electrophoresed on an agarose gel as described before. Furthermore, for demonstrating the orientation of the integrated fragment, a digest was carried out with BamHI and BglII. Finally the 3.3 kb was checked by a XhoI digest.

Plasmid pUC635 carries the 3.0 kb XhoI-subfragment of the BamA-fragment (pBR322 BamA) in the proper orientation and the proper reading frame relative to the lac UV5 promoter and is used for the expression of nearly the whole p 138 (Fig. 4). The fusion protein encoded by pUC635 is composed of 12 amino acids of the β -galactosidase amino terminus, about 1020 amino acids of p138, 60 amino acids of the carboxy terminal part of the β -galactosidase and another 29 amino acids of a pBR322 encoded region. Plasmid pUC6130 carries the 3.3 kb fragment in the opposite orientation (Fig. 4) Since the strain E.coli K12 JM83 is not a β -galactosidase repressor overproducer, the fusion protein is constitutively expressed. Therefore the plasmid pUC635 was introduced into the β -galactosidase repressor overproducer strain E.coli K12 BMH71-18 (DSM 3413) (U. Rütger, B. Müller-Hill, "Easy identification of cDNA clones", EMBO Journal 10, p. 1791

(1983)). Instead of strain E. coli K12 MBH71-18 strain (DSM 3423) E.coli K12 JM109/can also be used (without essential alteration of the experimental procedure).

Besides pUC635 three other plasmids were constructed: pUC924, pMF924 and pKK378 (Figures 6 to 8).

The insert of pKK378 starts at the same XhoI-site and continues up to the third XhoI-site located 250bp 3' of the stop codon. This fragment of 3.3kb was generated by an incomplete digest and inserted behind the tac-promotor and the start codon of pKK240-11 (F.Amann et al., supra). The expression product contains only two bacterial amino acids and its size is smaller than the size of the expression product of pUC635 because the bacterial lacZ part is missing.

pUC924 contains the fragment from the Bgl II-site to the third Xho I site. pUC9^(DSM 3421) was used as vector. Since the size of the insert is smaller than in pUC635 and since the stop codon from p138 is used, the molecular weight of the expression product is expected to be smaller than in pUC635 and pKK378.

The plasmid pMF924 was constructed from pEA305 (E. Amann et al., supra) and the same BglIII-XhoI fragment as in pUC924. pEA305 has a tac-promotor followed by the N-terminal part of the C1repressor, the resulting fusion protein is expected to be 17kd larger than in pUC924.

These constructs were tested for the production of EBV-related antigens by inducing the tac- and lac-promoters with IPTG and separating the proteins on an SDS-PAGE. None or only weak new bands could be detected on Coomassie-blue stained gels in the regions with the expected sizes. But after a transfer of the proteins onto nitrocellulose and immunostaining with a high titered NPC-pool serum and a peroxidase conjugated second anti-IgG antibody new EBV-specific bands were clearly detectable in all constructs. (Fig. 4)

1 All expressed proteins display almost the expected size,
but the yield varied over a wide range. The proteins encoded by pUC635 and pMF924, seem to be more stably express-
able than the non-fusion proteins from pUC924 and pKK378.
5 However, the amount of even the highest expressed protein from pUC635 is too low for a large-scale production since in the Coomassie-stained gel only a very weak band was visible which may be due to the large size of the eukary-
otic protein.

10

Example 3

Immunological assay of the proteins encoded by pUC635 pUC924, pMF924 and pKK378

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The host cells transformed with plasmids pUC635, pUC924, pMF924 and pUK378 were cultivated in L-broth supplemented with 50 µg/ml Ampicillin to a cell density of $D_{600}=0.8$.

20 Then, for the induction of the β -galactosidase the lactose analogon isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG; Sigma) was added (final concentration: 1mM). After a further incubation of 1.5 h at 37°C, 1.5 ml of the culture were centrifuged. The bacteria were resuspended in 200 µl boiling mix (2 % SDS, 5 % mercaptoethanol, 3 % sucrose, 50 mM
25 Tris-HCl, pH 7.0) and heated for 10 min at 100°C.

20 µl of the resulting protein extract were separated on a 12.5 % polyacrylamide gel and finally the proteins were visualized by coomassie-blue staining, but since the
30 yield of the expression product is very low, an immuno-staining was necessary. Therefore the electrophoretically separated proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose filter, i.e. a "Western-blot" was prepared (J. Renart, J. Reiser, G.R. Shark "Transfer of proteins from gels to diazobenzyl-methyl-paper and detection with antisera",
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- 50 -

- 1 Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76, p. 3116 (1979), S. Modrow,
H. Wolf, "Characterization of herpesvirus saimiri and
herpesvirus ateles induced proteins", in: Latent Herpes
Infections in Veterinary Medicine, Martinus Nijhoff Publ.,
5 p 105 (1984)).

The Western-blot was prepared with a current intensity
of 0.8 A for 3 h in Western-blot buffer (72 g glycine,
15 g Tris, 1 l methanol, H₂O dest. ad 5 l). Then the
10 nitrocellulose was saturated with Cohen buffer for 3 h
(0.1 % Ficoll 400, 1 % polyvinylpyrrolidone, 1.6 % BSA,
0.1 % NP40, 0.05 % gelatine, 0.17 M H₃BO₃, 28 mM NaOH,
150 mM NaCl, 6 mM NaN₃, pH 8.2) and incubated overnight
with 1:50 diluted high titered EBV specific serum from
15 NPC-patients. The serum had been preabsorbed to a bacterial-
protein extract (1 ml/10⁹ E. coli cells) to reduce the
bacterial protein generated background. Afterwards unbound
IgG was removed by washing the nitrocellulose filter for
5 h in gelatine buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 5 mM EDTA, 150 mM
20 NaCl, 0.25 % gelatine, 0.5 % Triton, 0.2 % SDS, pH 7.5).
For visualizing the blotted EBV-specific proteins rabbit
anti-human-IgG-antibodies coupled to peroxidase and
diluted 1:200 in TN buffer (154 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris, pH 7.4)
was added. After 2 h at RT, unbound rabbit antibodies were
25 removed by washing with gelatine buffer as described
above. Finally the peroxidase reaction was carried out in
100 ml 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, by adding 50 mg di-amino-
benzidine (Sigma) and 40 µl H₂O₂ and incubating 10 min. at
RT. The results of this experiment are shown in Fig. 5.
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Example 4

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Purification of the β -gal : p138 fusion protein encoded
by the plasmid pUC635

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The clone E.coli K12 JM109 pUC 635 was grown at 37°C in 500 ml L-broth supplemented with Ampicillin as described above until the OD₅₆₀ was 0.8. The fusion protein synthesis was induced by IPTG (1 mM) and the incubation was continued for another 2 h. Then the cells were collected by centrifugation for 10 min in a GSA rotor (Sorvall) at 5.000 rpm and they were resuspended in 50 ml 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5. For lysating the cells, EDTA (50 mM final concentration) and lysozyme (2 mg/ml final concentration) were added and this mixture was incubated for 30 min at 37°C. In the following, the cells were sonicated (Labsonic 1510, Braun) twice for 8 min, Triton X-100 was added to a final concentration of 3 % and, after further incubation at 37°C for 30 min, insoluble particles of the suspension were pelleted by centrifugation (SS 34 rotor (Sorvall), 20 min, 10.000 rpm). The resulting pellet was dissolved in 20 ml of an 8 M urea, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 0,5 % β -mercaptoethanol, pH 7.5, solution and recentrifuged as before.

Finally 80 mg of the proteins were subjected to a column chromatography (Sephacrose 2B-C1 (Pharmacia), length 80 cm, diameter 3 cm) with 8 M urea, 10 mM Tris, 0.1 % β -mercaptoethanol, pH 7.5, buffer. 30 μ l of each of the collected 4 ml samples were analyzed in a 15 % PAGE and the fusion protein-containing fractions were pooled.

1

Example 5Cloning of p138 subregions coding for antigenic determinants
5 identified by computer analysis

In principle in diagnostic tests only the antigenic de-
terminant subregions of the antigenic protein are needed.
Therefore the p138 amino acid sequence was analyzed by a
computer programm and the identified subregions of this
10 gene were introduced in suitable vectors. The production
of such small proteins has the advantage that these are
less vulnerable to rapid changes of antigenicity with
decreasing length of the product. Furthermore especially
in conjunction with assays for class specific antibodies
15 they will be of diagnostic value.

According to the method of P. Chou and G. Fasman
("Conformational parameters for aminoacids in α -helical
 β -sheet and random coil regions calculated from proteins",
20 Biochemistry 13, p. 211 (1974)) the calculation of the
appropriate secondary structure of a protein caused by
its aminoacid sequence (primary structure) is possible.
Superimposed on the suggested structure, the program de-
termines the relative hydrophilicity and hydrophobicity.
25 Both data sets are combined and a computer graphic is
drawn that shows α -helical, β -sheet, β -turning and randomly
coiled regions of the secondary structure. Thereby the
hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions are shown as open and
closed circles, respectively.

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An example of such computer graphic is shown for the
p138 amino acid sequence in Fig. 9.

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Based on the assumption that antigenic sites are mainly located in hydrophilic β -turns which are located on the surface of the protein, the region between about amino acid 520 and the carboxy-terminus of p138 should be antigenic. The corresponding DNA sequence is represented by a PstI-fragment of pUC635.

5

10

Thus pUC635 was cleaved with PstI and all PstI-fragments were isolated and introduced into PstI-cleaved pUC8, the remaining vector fragment with additional 400 bp (up to the first PstI-site of the p138 coding sequence) was religated (all methods as described in example 2).

15

The resulting recombinant plasmids were designated pUC P400, pUC P380, pUC P600, pUC P210, pUC P750, and pUC P540, respectively.

20

The aminoterminal region of the p138 encoding sequence was cloned by digesting the plasmid pBR322-BamA with PstI and HgiAI and inserting said fragment into PstI cleaved pUC9. (J. Messing et al., supra) (methods as described in example 2). The resulting recombinant plasmid is designated pUC HP.

25

With the exception of pUC HP in which translation stops at the 3' end of the insertion, in all subclones orientation and reading frames relative to pUC8 are correct.

30

Finally the recombinant plasmids were introduced into E. coli K12 JM 109 cells.

35

1 Example 6Expression of antigenic determinants identified by computer
analysis using pUR288 p138 subclones

5 Since pUC subclones (example 5) sometimes are not stably
expressible in bacteria, because they cannot build up
a suitable tertiary structure due to their shortness
and therefore can be degraded by proteases to a larger
10 extent than complete proteins we constructed recombinant plasmids encoding
large fusion proteins using at least a part of the β -galactosidase
encoded by pUR288 (DSM 3415) (U. R  ther et al., supra) by cleaving
said PstI-fragment subclones with BamHI and HindIII, isolating the
respective fragments and ligating them into BamHI and HindIII
15 cleaved pUR288 (all methods as described in example 2).

The expression was carried out in E.coli K12 JM109.
The products were analyzed as described in example 3.
After coomassie-blue staining of the gel several large
20 fusion proteins of different size were detected, however,
after preparation of a Western-blot, only the products
expressed by pUR600 and pUR540 showed specific reaction
with the IgG antibodies mentioned (Fig. 10).

25 These results are in good agreement with the computer
analysis.

Additionally the expression of the clones obtained
according to example 5 was carried out according to
30 example 3. The products, too, were analyzed as described
in example 3. From the coomassie-blue stained gel it
can be taken that only plasmids pUCP600 and pUCP380 code for a
stable fusion protein. The Western-blot shows that only
pUCP600 derived fusion protein is antigenic (Fig. 11).
35 This fusion protein contains 11 amino acids encoded

- 55 -

1 by the aminoterminal cloning site, a region encoded by
about 600 bp of p138 and carboxyterminal amino acids of
the lacZ gene. Thus, the recombinant expression plasmids
pUR600 and pUR540 as well as pUCP600 can be used for
5 the production of large and small fusion proteins,
respectively, containing an antigenic determinant
of EBV-protein p138.

10 Example 7

Application of the protein encoded by plasmid pUCP600 for the stabilization of per se unstable parts of eukaryotic 15 proteins

By means of the experiments of example 6 it was shown
that the p138-derived protein parts (regions) are
unstable with the exception of the protein encoded by plasmid
pUCP600. The second antigenic region from the C-terminus of,
20 p138 (P540, see Fig. 9) is not stably expressible using the
recombinant pUC-vector pUCP540.

The ability of the P600-region of p138 to stabilize
such a per se unstable expression product is shown in
this example.

25 For this purpose it was necessary to remove the
5'-PstI-site of pUCP600 by digesting the plasmid with SstI
and HindIII (the SstI site is located about 20 bp 3' from
the first PstI site). The p138-related SstI-HindIII frag-
30 ment was inserted into SstI/HindIII cleaved pUC12 (DSM3422)
J. Messing, "New M13 vectors for cloning", in Methods of
Enzymology Vol. 101, Part C., R. Wu, L. Großmann and
K. Moldave (eds.), Acad. Press, New York, 1983, 20-78).

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- 56 -

1 Then the resulting
recombinant plasmid was digested with EcoRI and PstI.
The obtained 600 bp fragment was inserted into plasmid pUC8.
The 5'-PstI site was now replaced by an SstI site
5 and thus the reading frame is reconstituted at the
3'- and the 5'-end of the insert (Fig. 12a). The resulting
recombinant plasmid pUC601 still expresses a stable
product (Fig. 13).

10 Between the PstI and HindIII site at the 3'-terminus of
the EBV-encoded sequence a synthetic oligonucleotide
obtained according to known methods coding in frame for
5 arginine and 2 stop codons was inserted as shown in
Fig. 12b). The resulting plasmid pUCARG601 encodes the
15 P600 region of p138 fused at its C-terminus to 5 ar-
ginine residues.

In a last step the PstI fragment encoding the P540 region of
p138 was ligated to the PstI fragment encoding the
20 P600 region of p138 after digestion with PstI. The
resulting recombinant plasmid pUCARG1140 encodes a
stable protein of about 43kd which contains two
antigenic sites of p138 fused in frame. In this fusion
protein the protein region P600 stabilizes the protein
25 region P540 (Fig. 13). The arginine residues at the
~~carboxy~~terminus of the expression product may be used for
the purification of the resulting fusion protein as
described by Sassenfeld and Brewer (supra) (Fig. 16).

30 Example 8

Construction of the recombinant plasmid pUCARG680

From the plasmid pUCARG1140 a modified version was con-
35 structed which lacks 435bp of the p138 encoding region,
the C-terminal part of the p600 fragment and the N-ter-
minal part of the p540 fragment. The main antigenic

- 57 -

1 sites predicted by the computer program are still present.
The plasmid was designated as pUCARG680 and its construction was achieved by digesting pUCARG1140 with NcoI (cleavage site corresponds to bp1841 and bp3243 in
5 Fig. 3). Since the reading frames in the p600 NcoI site and the p540 NcoI site do not fit, the sticky ends were removed with S1-Nuclease.
30 µg of pUCARG1140 were digested with NcoI, the 3.3kb vector-p138 fragment was separated by gelelectrophoresis
10 and purified. 5µg of this DNA fragment were digested with 100 units S1-Nuclease for 15 min at roomtemperature in 100 µl containing 33mM Na-acetate, 50 mM NaCl, 0.03mM ZnSO₄, pH 4.5. The digest was stopped by phenol extraction. After precipitation with ethanol the DNA
15 was religated with T4-DNA ligase and used to transform competent E.coli K12 JM109 cells. The resulting clones were screened for the appearance of a new protein with 30kb in size (pUCARG680). The shortened p600/p540 fusion protein encoded by pUCARG680 still reacts as an antigen.
20 The newly constructed recombinant plasmid pUCARG680 was deposited with the DSM under the deposition number DSM3408.

Example 9

25

Assay of the antigenicity of the fusion protein encoded by plasmid pUCARG1140

30 Immunoblots with the fusion proteins encoded by the recombinant plasmids pUCARG1140, pUR540, and pUR600 (examples 6 and 7) using individual NPC-sera reveal that the immunological reactions differ in various patients (Fig. 14). In this context it has to be understood that said plasmids encode fusion proteins containing the p138 regions P540 + P600, P540, and P600,
35 respectively (see Fig. 9).

1
Whereas in NPC serum no.352 the main fraction of the
IgG and IgA antibodies is directed to the P540 region,
the main fraction in NPC serum no.354 is directed to the
5 P600 region of p138. A representative pool prepared from
many sera from NPC patients did not detect additional
antigenic sites. The conclusion from this finding is that
the antigenic determinants P540 and P600 as encoded by
the recombinant plasmids of the present
10 invention are necessary and sufficient to achieve the
desired specificity for ELISA tests useful for diagnostic
purposes.

Example 10

15
Application of plasmid: pUCARG1140 encoded fusion protein
for the detection of NPC in ELISA tests

20 The purified fusion protein encoded by pUCARG1140 was
coated on micro-titer plates. Ten individual NPC-sera
were tested for their IgG and especially for their
IgA reactivity. The IgA-anti-EA titer of these sera was
previously determined in conventional immunofluorescence
tests. The highest titer found was 1:80. In the ELISA
25 test shown in Fig. 15, two EBV-negative, one NPC-serum
pool and ten individual NPC-sera were tested up to a
dilution 1:10640. The test was performed according to
the usual ELISA protocol. Bound antibodies were detected
with peroxidase conjugated mouse anti human IgG, i.e.
30 IgA and peroxidase reaction. All NPC sera show a reaction
with the coated antigen (up to 1:2560 in IgA) and no
background reaction could be observed in the negative
controls. This result indicates that the pUCARG1140
encoded expression product is suitable for the diagnosis
35 and early detection of NPC.

1

Example 1TCloning of a subregion of the gene coding for gp 350 in the vector pUC8

5

The coding region of gp 250 and gp 350 was mapped to the Bam L-fragment (J. Skare et al., supra) of the EBV B95-8 genome.

As both polypeptides share identical regions it was supposed that both proteins are encoded by overlapping reading frames

10

(M. Hummel, D. Thorley-Lawson, E. Kieff, "Epstein-Barr virus DNA fragment encodes messages for the two major envelope glycoproteins (gp 350/300 and gp 220/200)", J. of Virol. 49, p. 413 (1984)). The sequence data of

Baer et al. (supra) revealed a large open reading frame including a donor splice site and an acceptor splice site in said

15

Bam L-fragment of the virus genome (Fig.17 and 18).

It is assumed that gp 350 is the translation product of the unspliced mRNA transcribed from this region and

20

gp 250 is a product of the corresponding spliced mRNA (Fig.17). Since both products are found in the viral capsids it is assumed that a differential splicing of said mRNA in a manner comparable with the immunoglobulin

heavy chain genes (T. Honjo, "Immunoglobulin genes",

25

Ann. Rev. of Immunol.1, p. 499 (1983)) takes place.

During this splicing 630 bp of the mRNA coding for gp 350 are removed to yield the gp 250 coding mRNA (Fig. 17 and 27 (dotted lines)) (R. Baer et al., supra).

30

Therefore the whole or a part of the reading frame of gp 350 was cloned for finally isolating and producing a gp 350 related product. It should be kept in mind, that not only gp 250 but also gp 350 are highly glycosylated proteins. In contrast, the proteins produced by expression

35

of the recombinant DNA molecules according to the present

- 60 -

1 invention differ from the respective viral proteins
normally occurring in nature. If expression is carried
out in prokaryotes unmodified proteins are obtained
whereas expression in eukaryotes gives proteins with
5 different patterns of glycosylation or else modifications
as compared to the natural product.

The Bam L-fragment was introduced in pBR322, and E. coli
K 12 HB 101 was transformed with the recombinant plasmid
10 obtained. (J. Skare, et al., supra)

Instead of the host E.coli K12 HB101 the host bacteria
used in the present invention can also be used.

15 The contents of the publications of M. Hummel et al. (supra),
J. R. North et al. (J. R. North, A. J. Morgan, J. L.
Thompson, M. A. Epstein, "Purified Epstein-Barr virus
M_r 340.000 glycoprotein induces potent virus-neutralizing
antibodies when incorporated in liposomes", Proc. Natl.
20 Acad. Sci. USA 79, p. 7504 (1982)) and D. A. Thorley-
Lawson and C. A. Poodry ("Identification and Isolation
of the Main Component (gp350-gp220) of Epstein-Barr Virus
Responsible for Generating Neutralizing Antibodies In Vivo",
J. Virol. 43, p. 730 (1984) do not permit predictions that
25 subregions of the gp 250/350 encoding sequence are coding
for sufficiently antigenic and/or immunogenic proteins
and that these products after selective introduction of
these subregions can be stably expressed in prokaryotic
and eukaryotic cells. It is therefore surprising that
30 completely unmodified or in a different way modified
gp 250/350 related proteins of the present invention
are sufficiently active antigens and/or immunogens.
In particular in previous publications it was not ex-
cluded that minor carbohydrate residues of the protein
35 contribute significantly to the antigenic or immunogenic
potential of this protein.

1 As shown in Fig.17, a 1.9 kb PstI-PstI-fragment of the
Bam L-fragment (Hummel et al., supra) contains the part
of the gp 350 coding region beginning at aminoacid
position 232 and ending at aminoacid position 825.

5

A large scale preparation of the pBR 322-BamL plasmid DNA
was done according to the method published by H.C. Birn-
boim and J. Doly ("A rapid alkaline extraction procedure
for screening recombinant plasmid DNA", Nucl. Acids Res. 7,
10 p. 1513 (1979)). 50µg of this DNA were digested for 2
hours at 37°C with 100 units PstI (Boehringer) in 50
mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5.
The digestion was stopped by addition of 1/5 vol. 50 mM
15 EDTA, 60 % sucrose, 2 % bromphenolblue. The resulting
solution was electrophoretically separated on a 1 %
agarose gel (Seakem, FMC) in Tris-acetate buffer (0.04 M
Tris-acetate, 2 mM EDTA, pH 7.6). As a size marker HindIII
digested λ-phage DNA (Boehringer) was used. After the
20 electrophoresis at 40 V for 14 hours at room temperature
(RT), the gel was stained in Tris-acetate buffer containing
0.5 µg/ml ethidium bromide.

The DNA bands in the gel were visualized by UV-illumina-
25 tion and the 1.9 kb PstI-PstI fragment was isolated as
described in example 2.

PstI digested DNA of the vector pUC8 was prepared as
30 described before, except that for inhibition of religation
of the vector during the following ligase reaction, the
DNA was treated with alkaline phosphatase (0.5 units
(Boehringer), 30 min at 37°C).

35 The concentration of the purified fragments was estimated
by electrophoresing 1 µl each in parallel with 100 ng and
500 ng of pUC8-DNA (under conditions described above).

- 62 -

1 400 ng of the 1.9 kb PstI-PstI-fragment and 100 ng of the
PstI digested vector DNA were ligated, E.coli K12 JM109
was transformed with the ligated plasmid DNA and positive
clones were identified as described in example 2.

5 The obtained clone was designated E. coli K12 JM109
pUCLP1.9 and the resulting recombinant plasmid pUCLP1.9,
respectively.

10 Example 12

Cloning of a subregion of the gene coding for gp 350 in
the vector pUR290

15 For the expression of a stable product of the gp 350
subregion said 1.9 kb PstI-PstI-fragment was recloned
in the vector pUR290 (DSM 3417) (Fig. 20) (U.Rüther et al., infra).
The resulting recombinant plasmid is coding for a fusion
protein of an aminoterminal region of the β -galactosidase,
20 followed by the aminoacids 232 to 825 of gp 350 and
aminoacids coded by the cloning-site of pUR290 and pBR322
nucleotide residues. The respective aminoacid se-
quence is given in figure 21.

25 50 μ g DNA of the plasmid pUCLP 1.9 were digested with
100 units BamHI and HindIII and separated on a 1 % agarose
gel as described above. The resulting 1.9 kb BamHI/HindIII
fragment that contains only a few more nucleotides than
the PstI-PstI-fragment originally introduced into pUC8
30 was separated from the other resulting fragments on a 1 %
agarose gel (as described above). Finally it was isolated
from the gel as described above and ligated into BamHI/
HindIII digested DNA of the vector pUR290 (U. Rüther,
B. Müller-Hill "Easy identification of cDNA clones",
35 EMBO Journal 10, p. 1791 (1983)) according to the methods
described above.

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1 The next step was the transformation of the β -galactosi-
dase repressor-protein overproducer strain
E. coli K12 JM109 with these recombinant
DNA molecules. The transformants were plated and analysed
5 as described above, except that the aliquots of the DNA
preparations were digested with BamHI/HindIII and EcoRI.
The resulting clone, E. coli K12 JM109 pURLP1.9 carries
the plasmid pURLP1.9, that is a recombinant of said
10 BamHI-HindIII 1.9 kb fragment of the plasmid pUCLP1.9 and
the vector pUR290 (see Fig. 20).

Example 13

15 gp 350 related polypeptides synthesized by E. coli K12
JM109 pURLP1.9

In an overnight culture E. coli K12 JM109 pURLP1.9
was grown at 37°C in 5ml L-broth supplemented with 50 µg/
20 ml Ampicillin. The culture was then diluted to an optical
density at 560 nm (OD₅₆₀) of 0.4, and 4 ml of this bacteria
suspension were incubated at 37°C until an OD₅₆₀ of 0.8.

The expression of the genetic information carried by
plasmid pURLP1.9 was then induced as described in
25 example 3 and finally the proteins were visualized by
coomassie-blue staining as described in example 3.

In comparison with the control experiment, several new
30 proteins, encoded by the plasmid pURLP1.9 and ranging in
size from 116 kD to 200 kD, were detected (Fig. 22). The
different size of the expression products may be due to
incomplete mRNA synthesis or translation. To prove that
the new proteins are EBV-related products, all the
electrophoretically separated proteins were transferred
35 to a nitrocellulose filter, i.e. a "Western-blot" was
prepared according to the method described in example 3.
The results of this experiment are shown in Fig. 22.

Example 14Purification of the β -gal : gp 350 fusion protein encoded by the plasmid pURLP1.9

The replacement of the natural carboxyterminal amino acid sequence of the β -galactosidase by a gp 350 related amino acid sequence prevents the formation of β -galactosidase tetramers. Furthermore the newly expressed fusion protein is present in a high concentration in the bacterial cell. Therefore the fusion protein precipitates in the cytoplasm of the host cell.

According to the method described in example 4 the clone E. coli K12 JM109 pURLP1.9 was used for the production of the corresponding fusion protein.

The results of the several stages of this purification procedure are shown in Fig. 23.

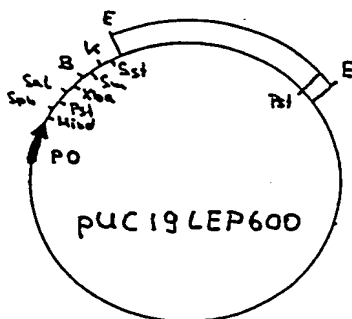
Example 15Expression of selected antigenic epitopes of gp250/350 as β -galactosidase fusionproteins

Fig. 24 shows the computer-predicted secondary structure of gp350 together with the relative values of hydrophilic (dark circles) and hydrophobic (grey circles) areas. β -turns or loop structures are indicated as line turns of 180°

(α -helices, β -sheet and coil structures are barely discernable in the scale used). Based on the assumption that antigenic sites are mainly located in β -turns in an hydrophilic environment, which may be exposed to the surface of the protein, the regions at about aminoacid 50 and aminoacid 740 and 800-830, respectively, are expected to represent antigenic epitopes.

Subcloning and expression of the N-terminus of gp250/350

The EBV BamHI-L fragment which was cloned in pBR322 (see J. Skare et al., supra) was digested with EcoRI (restriction sites at positions 650 and 1284 in the sequence given in Fig. 17), the resulting 634 bp fragment was eluted from an agarose gel after electrophoresis and ligated to EcoRI linearised pUC19 (DSM3425) (Yanisch-Perron / Gene 33, 103-119 (1985)). Then, E.coli K12 JM109 was transformed with the ligation products (all steps were carried out as described in Example 2). According to example 2 the recombinant plasmids obtained were tested for the orientation of their insert using suitable restriction enzymes. A recombinant plasmid carrying the insert in the opposite orientation of the reading frame relative to the reading frame of the lacZ gene of the pUC19 plasmid was designated as pUC19LEP600 and used for further cloning:



pUC19LEP600 was digested with BamHI and PstI (the BamHI site is derived from pUC19, the PstI site corresponds to position 1248 in Fig. 17), the resulting 600bp fragment was inserted into pUR291 (DSM3418) (Rüther, supra), previously digested with BamHI and PstI. The resulting recombinant plasmid pURLEP600 displayed the following sequence in its linker region at the C-terminus of the β -galactosidase:

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1 purified according to the method given in example 4. An
antibody reaction to all three fusion proteins indicates
a normal immune status. If there is nor or weaker reaction with the
proteins encoded by pURLEP600 and pURLXP390, but reacti-
5 vity against pURLP1.9 (which contains the intron se-
quences, see Fig. 27) a chronic EBV-infection is very
likely.

IgA antibodies to the membrane protein gp250/350 and
10 to subfragments thereof are absent in the normal popula-
tion, but present in 58 % of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma
patients when measured in a relatively insensitive
immunofluorescence assay. These results are similar to
the detection rate of IgA antibodies to EBV specific
15 early antigens in comparable testsystems. In analogy
the more sensitive ELISA test brings the detection rate
close to 100 % with only minimal increase of false posi-
tive results. Therefore the antigens encoded by the
newly constructed recombinant plasmids pURLEP600,
20 pURLXP390, and pURLP1.9, respectively, are valuable
substances for the initial diagnosis and the control
of a therapy of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma.

25 Example 17

Expression of the N-terminal gp250/350 fragment in the plasmid pUC8

30 The recombinant plasmid covering the N-terminal region
of gp250/350, pUC19LEP600 (see example 15), was digested
with BamHI and PstI. The EBV derived fragment was iso-
lated and ligated into pUC8, previously digested with the
same enzymes. The sequence in the linker region of the
35 resulting clone, pUCLEP600, is the following:

1 The insert of pUC19LXP390 was cut out with BamHI and
 HindIII and ligated into pUR288 digested with the same
 enzymes. The resulting recombinant plasmid was intro-
 5 duced into E.coli K12 JM109 and was designated as
 pURLXP390. The sequence in its linker region is as
 follows:

pUR288 / pUC19 / gp350 / pUC8 /
 10 - β -gal-TGT CGG GGA TCC TCT AGA GTC AGT TCC CAC-----GTA CTG CAG CCA AGC
 pUR288
 TTA TCG

15 After IPTG-induction a β -galactosidase fusion protein
 was synthesized by said transformed host. In a Western
 blot the expression product shows a high reactivity with
 the NPC sera pool (see Fig. 25, lower part)

20 Example 16

Use of the β -gal::gp250/350 fusion proteins encoded by the newly constructed recombinant plasmids in dia- gnostic tests

25 Jilg et al. (W.Jilg and H. Wolf, "Diagnostic Significance of
 Antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus-Specific Membrane Antigen
 gp250", The Journal of Infectious Diseases, 152, 222-225(1985))
 have shown the validity of gp250
 30 and gp350 as antigens for the determination of the ~~immune~~
 status to EBV and especially for the diagnosis of chronic
 EBV-infections. Persons showing a normal immune response
 after an EBV-infection possess antibodies against gp250
 and gp350, whereas patients suffering from chronic
 35 EBV-infection show an immune response only to gp350 which
 still contains the additional intron sequence (see Fig.
 27). The serological status of these persons can be
 checked in ELISA tests using the three fusion proteins,

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/ pUC8 / pUC19 . / gp350
 /
 ATT ACG AAT TCC CGG GGA TCC CCG GGT ACC GAG CTC GAA TTC CCA
 pUC8
 TTT-----ACC TGC AGC CAA GCT TAT

- 10 After induction with IPTG, the fusion protein encoded
 by pUCLEP600 is quite stable in the bacterial cells and
 is recognized as an antigen by the NPC sera pool (see
 Fig. 26). The bacterial fusion part consists of 14 amino-
 acids at the N-terminus and 9 at the C-terminus. The
 15 value of this protein is its applicability in a vaccine,
 especially when it is fused with the per se instable
 second antigenic region from the C-terminus as it was
 determined with the B-gal fusion proteins (see example 15).
- 20 The inserts of the recombinant expression plasmids and
 cloning plasmids constructed according to examples 11
 and 15 to 17 are summarized in Fig. 27.

Example 18

- 25 Expression of the N-terminal part of gp250/350 as a
p138::gp250/350 fusion protein

- 30 The plasmid pUC19LEP600 (see example 15) was digested
 with PstI and the resulting 600bp fragment was ligated
 to the PstI linearised plasmid pUCARG601 (see example 7).
 The gp350-insert was checked to be in the same orien-
 tation as the pUCARG601-reading frame and the resulting
 recombinant plasmid was designated as pUCARG1230. The
 35 sequence in the linker region and at the junction sites
 of the obtained plasmids is the following:

- 70 -

1

pUC8 / pUC12 / p138 / pUC19

ATG ACC ATG ATT ACG AAT TCG AGC TCT CTG ACC-----ATC CTG CAG GTC GAC
TCT AGA

/ gp350 / pUCARG501
GGA TCC CCG GGT ACC GAG CTC GAA TTC CCA TTT-----ACC TGC AGC GTC GTC
GTC GTC GTT GAT AAC GTT

15 After induction with IPTG, E.coli K12 JM109 carrying
pUCARG1230 expresses a stable and antigenic protein
which consists of antigenic regions from two different
proteins, namely p138 and gp250/350 (see Fig. 26).

20 Furthermore it can be used as antigen in ELISA tests and
also for vaccination.

Example 19

25 Neutralisation test with sera derived from rabbits
immunized with gp250/350 antigens

30 Supernatants from B95-8 cells were used to immortalize
human umbilical cord blood cells (Lymphocyte fraction from
Ficol/Hypaque gradient). $0,5 \times 10^6$ lymphocytes were
seeded per 0,5 ml microtiter plate well and 50 μ l of a
cell-free supernatant of B95-8 cells were added and
allowed to adsorb for 2 hours at 37°C. After incubation
the virus-containing medium was removed, cells were
washed with RPMI1640 medium containing 10 % fetal calf
35 serum and incubated in 200 μ l of the same medium at 37°C

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1 in a 5 % CO₂ atmosphere. Developing colonies of
 lymphoblastoid cells were evaluated not sooner than
 three weeks after the start of the experiment and
 counted as positive transformation.

5

The neutralizing properties of sera were tested by pre-
 incubating for 1 hour under slight agitation aliquotes
 of the Epstein-Barr Virus containing B95-8 cell super-
 natant with 20 µl of test serum including the respective
 10 preimmunization serum as control in a replicate test before
 the supernatant was allowed to adsorb to the umbilical
 cord blood lymphocytes. After removing the inoculum from
 the cells after 2 hours the maintenance medium (RPMI1640
 supplemented with 10 % FCS) was supplemented with 5 %
 15 of the respective sera under test for neutralizing
 activity. The following results were obtained:

	PBS (control)	Virus	Virus	Virus	Virus	Virus
20	(no virus)	+	+	+	+	+
		EBV nega- tive human se- rum	EBV posi- tive human se- rum pool	rabbit preserum	rabbit immune serum 1	rabbit immune serum 2
25	no colo- nies	colonies	no colo- nies	colonies	no colo- nies	no colonies

30

35

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1 Example 20Cloning and expression of antigenic fragments of the virus-capsid protein p150

5 The coding sequence of the diagnostically relevant protein p 150 (Virus capsid antigen VCA (see Example 1, Fig. 28D) was examined for antigenic sites and subcloned for the expression as β -galactosidase fusion proteins. The N-terminal region which is expected to encode an antigenic site was obtained by digestion of the Charon 4A phage EB 69-79

10 (G.N. Buell, D. Reisman, C. Kintner, G. Crouse, and B. Sugden, "Cloning overlapping DNA fragments from the B95-8 strain of Epstein-Barr virus (ATCC CRL 1612) reveals a site of homology to the internal repetition", Journal of Virology 40, 977-982 (1981)) with BamHI and a resulting 1176bp fragment was

15 cloned into the BamHI site of pUC12. From a resulting plasmid with the insertion in the proper orientation a 580bp fragment was excised with XhoI/SalI. The SalI site derives from the pUC12 linker, the XhoI site is located 33bp upstream from the start of p150. This fragment was inserted into pUC8 digested with SalI (SalI and XhoI share the same sticky end

20 sequence). The resulting clones were screened to have the p150 start codon next to the BamHI site. From a proper clone the p150 encoding region was cut out with BamHI and HindIII and cloned into pUR290 digested with BamHI and HindIII

25 (pUR290CXH580). The expression of the β -Gal::p150 fusion protein from this clone is shown in Figure 29. Its ability to react very well with a NPC serum pool can be taken from Figure 30.

30 Further, p150:: β -gal fusion constructs were obtained accordingly. For example the subclones pUR290DBX320, pUR292DBB180, pUR290DTT 700, pURDTT740, pUR290DTP680, pUR288DPP320 which are indicated in Figure 31. From the designation of the subclones, the vector used can be

35 taken, e.g. for the construction of subclone pUR290DBX320 the vector pUR290 was used.

From Figure 30 the restriction enzyme sites used for subcloning can also be taken. All clones with the exception of pURDBB180 were constructed by subcloning the desired fragments into pUC8 or pUC12 (see supra) to obtain BamHI and HindIII sites suitable for the cloning to pUR vectors (see supra). pUR292DBB180 was derived by insertion of the 180bp BglIII-BglII fragment (see Fig.31) into pUR292 linearized with BamHI. Figures 29 and 30 show their expression and antigenicity.

The β -gal::p150 fusion protein encoded by pUR290CXH580 and purified according to example 4 reacts in the ELISA test as an EBV specific antigen indicating its applicability in diagnosis. Stable expression was also obtained with the N-terminal fragment of p150 by inserting the 580bp fragment (used for the construction of pUR290CSH580) into pUC18^(DSM 3424) using the BamHI and HindIII site. The resulting clone pUC18CXH580 expresses a stable and antigenic protein of about 25kD in size.

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The following deposited plasmids, host bacteria and cell lines were used for the purpose of the present invention. The deposition was affected according to the Budapest treaty

m.o.	depository	deposition number
B 95.8	ATCC	CRL 1612
E.coli K12 JM83	ATCC	35607
E.coli K12 BMH71-18	DSM	3413
E.coli K12 JM109	DSM	3423
pUC8	DSM	3420
pUC9	DSM	3421
pUC12	DSM	3422
pUC19	DSM	3425
pUR288	DSM	3415
pUR290	DSM	3417
pUR291	DSM	3418
pUCARG680	DSM	3408
pUC18	DSM	3424

While we have hereinbefore presented a number of embodiments of this invention, it is apparent that our constructions can be altered to provide other embodiments which utilize DNA sequences of the EBV genome coding for EBV-related antigens and for producing recombinant DNA molecules. It is obvious to those skilled in the art that other DNA sequences may also be used, which are related to said DNA sequences and which may be derived from other EBV serotypes. The EBV is easily obtainable from known natural sources, e. g. from the saliva of infected patients.

It is obvious that for obtaining biologically comparable results other suitable vector/host systems can be used. The invention is not limited to host/vector systems presently available.

1 Claims:

1. A DNA sequence of the EBV-genome, characterized in that it corresponds to at least a part of an EBV-related antigenic protein having an aminoacid sequence as shown in Figures 3, 17, and 28.
2. A DNA sequence according to claim 1, characterized in that it corresponds to at least a part of protein p150, p143, p138, p110, p105, p90, p80, p54 or gp250/350.
3. A DNA sequence according to claims 1 or 2, characterized in that it contains additionally the respective regulatory sequences in the 5' and 3' flanks.
4. A DNA sequence hybridizing to a DNA sequence according to anyone of claims 1 to 3 from whatever source obtained including natural, synthetic or semisynthetic sources, which is related by mutations, including nucleotide substitutions, nucleotide deletions, nucleotide insertions and inversions of nucleotide stretches to a DNA sequence according to claims 1 to 3 and which encodes at least a part of a protein according to claim 1.
5. A DNA sequence according to claim 2, characterized in that it is inserted in the recombinant plasmid pUC6130, pUC635, pUCP400, pUCP380, pUCP600, pUCP210, pUCP750, pUCP540, pUCHP, pUC924, pMF924, pKK378, pUR600, pUR540, pUCARG680 or pUCARG1140.
6. A DNA sequence according to claim 2, characterized in that it is inserted in the recombinant plasmid pUCLP1.9, pURLP1.9, pUC19LEP600, pUC19LXP390, pURLXP390, pUCARG1230, pUCLEP600, pUCLXP390 and pURLEP600.

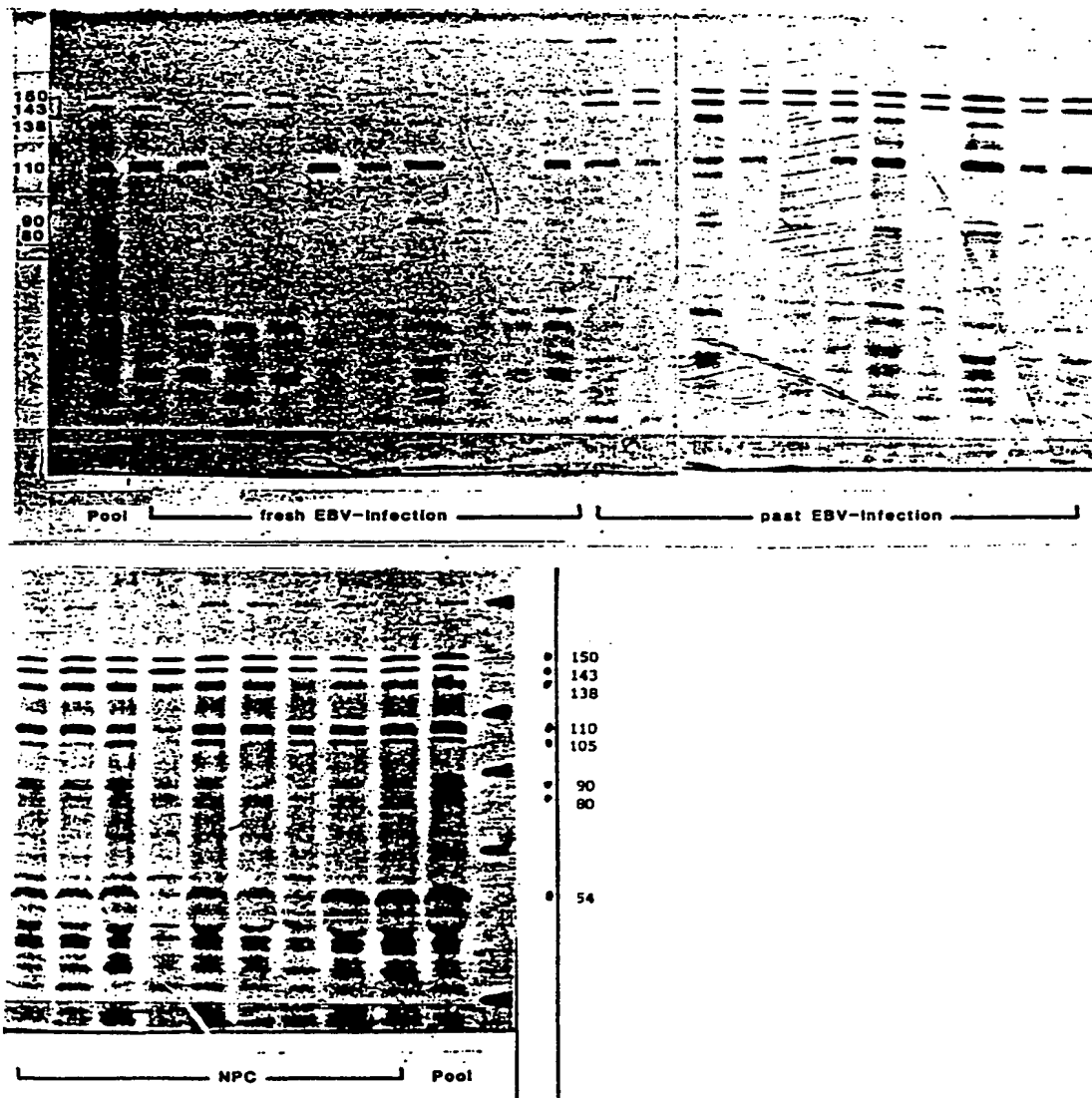
1

- 1 7. A DNA sequence according to claim 2, characterized
in that it is inserted in the recombinant plasmid
pUR290CXH580, pUR290DBX320, pUR292DBB180, pUR290DTT700,
pURDTT740, pUR290DTP680 or pUR288DPP320.
- 5
8. A DNA sequence characterized in that it contains in
reading frame at least two regions of a DNA sequence
of anyone of claims 1 to 4 derived from a single
EBV genome.
- 10
9. A DNA sequence according to claim 8, characterized
in that it contains in reading frame at least two
regions of a DNA sequence of anyone of claims 1 to
4 derived from different EBV genomes.
- 15
10. A DNA sequence according to anyone of claims 1 to 9,
characterized in that it contains at its 3' end
three to fifteen arginine codons positioned in the
correct reading frame followed by at least one stop
codon.
- 20
11. A DNA sequence according to anyone of claims 1 to 6,
characterized in that it contains at its 5' end
an oligonucleotide encoding an oligopeptide which serves
in the resulting polypeptide as a cleavage site for a
sequence specific protease or which is cleavable by
acid treatment with an acid such as formic acid.
- 25
12. A recombinant DNA molecule for cloning, character-
ized in that it contains a DNA sequence according
to anyone of claims 1 to 11.
- 30
13. A recombinant DNA molecule for expression,
characterized in that it contains a DNA sequence
according to anyone of the claims 1 to 11 that
is operatively linked to an expresssion control
sequence.
- 35

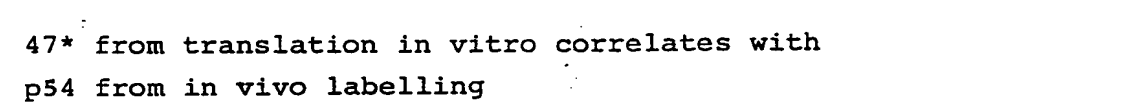
- 1 14. A recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 13,
characterized in that the expression control
sequence is selected from the group of the
5 E. coli λ promoter system, the E. coli lac-system,
the E. coli β -lactamase system, the E. coli
trp-system, the E. coli lipoprotein promoter,
yeasts and other eukaryotic expression control
sequences.
- 10 15. Vector carrying a part of the p138 encoding
DNA sequence the encoded protein of which stabi-
lizes in a fusion protein a protein encoded by
a DNA sequence ligated to its 3'-end and carrying
15 a DNA sequence encoding three to fifteen arginine
residues followed by at least one stop codon
which after insertion of the second DNA sequence is
positioned at the 3'-end of this second sequence
in the correct reading frame.
- 20 16. Vector according to claim 15 which is pUCARG601.
17. A host, characterized in that it is transformed
by at least one recombinant DNA molecule according
25 to anyone of claims 12 to 14.
18. A host according to claim 17 selected from the
group consisting of strains of E. coli, other
bacteria, yeasts, other fungi, animal and human
30 cells.
19. A protein having EBV-related antigenic determinants
suitable for diagnosis and therapy of EBV-related
diseases, characterized in that it is encoded by
35 a DNA sequence according to anyone of claims 1
to 11.

- 1 20. A polyantigen having at least two EBV-related
antigenic determinants suitable for diagnosis
and therapy of EBV-related diseases, character-
5 ized in that it is encoded by a DNA sequence
according to anyone of claims 8 and 9.
21. A fusion protein, characterized in that it con-
tains a protein according to claims 19 or 20.
- 10 22. A diagnostic composition for the detection of
anti-EBV-antibodies, containing at least one
protein according to anyone of claims 19 to 21
in an amount sufficient to bind said anti-EBV-
15 antibodies in a sample.
23. A diagnostic composition for the detection of
EBV-related diseases, containing at least one
DNA sequence according to anyone of claims 1 to
20 11 in an amount sufficient for hybridization
to an EBV-related DNA sequence in a sample.
24. A pharmaceutical composition containing at least
one protein according to anyone of claims 19
25 to 21 in an amount sufficient for stimulating
in humans the production of antibodies to EBV
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or
diluent.
- 30 25. A method of preventing EBV infection or therapy
of EBV-related diseases comprising administering
to a human being the pharmaceutical composition
according to claim 24 in an amount sufficient
35 to induce or to modulate an immunoresponse.

Figure 1: Autoradiography of an immunoprecipitation of EBV-specific sera derived from patients suffering from mononucleosis and NPC.



•



p54 from in vivo labelling

Figure 3

- 1 -

1 GTTTCGAGGGCTGGGCGGCATGCCAAGATCGCTGAGACGTCAGTTCCCCGTGACGTGGGC 60
 CCTGGCCAGCCTGACTGACTTCCTGAAATCTTTGTAAATGAATAAACAGTGGGTGTTGCG 120
 61 TGATGAGTAAAGTGTAAACATTTAATGTGGGACTGGGAGGCCGGGCGCATACCTTGGGCAT 180
 121 H₂I
 CATGCAGGGTGCACAGACTAGCGAGGATAAICTGGGCAGCCAGAGCCAGCCGGGTCCGTG 240
 181 MetGlnGlyAlaGlnThrSerGluAspAsnLeuGlySerGlnSerGlnProGlyProCy
 CCGCTACATCTACTTTTACCCCTGGCCACCTACCCCTCTTAGGGAGGTGGCCACACTGGG 300
 241 sGlyTyrIleTyrPheTyrProLeuAlaThrTyrProLeuArgGluValAlaThrLeuGl
 GACCGGCTACGCGGGCCACAGGTGCCTGACGGTGCCGCTCCTTTGCGGCATCACCGTGGG 360
 301 yThrGlyTyrAlaGlyHisArgCysLeuThrValProLeuLeuCysGlyIleThrValGl
 GCCGGGCTTCAGCATCAATGTCAAGGCTCTGCACAGGAGGCCCGACCCCAACTGCGGGCT 420
 361 uProGlyPheSerIleAsnValLysAlaLeuHisArgArgProAspProAsnCysGlyLe
 CCTACGCGCTACCTCCTATCACAGGGACAICTACGTGTTCCACAATGCCCATATGGTTCC 480
 421 uLeuArgAlaThrSerTyrHisArgAspIleTyrValPheHisAsnAlaHisMetValPr
 XXXX
 431 CCCCATCTTTGAGGGGCCGGGCTCTCGAGGCCCTCTGTGGCGAGACCAGGGAGGTGTTTGG 540
 oProIlePheGluGlyProGlyLeuGluAlaLeuCysGlyGluThrArgGluValPheGl
 GTACGACGCTACAGCGCCCTACCGAGGGAAAGCTCCAAGCCGGGGGACTTCTTCCCCGA 600
 541 yTyrAspAlaTyrSerAlaLeuProArgGluSerSerLysProGlyAspPhePheProGl
 AGGGCTAGATCCCTCTGCCTACCTGGGGGCGGTGGCAATAACCGAGGGCCTTCAAGGAGCG 660
 601 uGlyLeuAspProSerAlaTyrLeuGlyAlaValAlaIleThrGluAlaPheLysGluAr
 ACTCTACAGCGGAAACCTGGTGGCCATTCCATCGTTAAACAGGAGGTAGCGGTGGGGCA 720
 661 gLeuTyrSerGlyAsnLeuValAlaIleProSerLeuLysGlnGluValAlaValGlyGl
 GTCTGCGAGCGTTAGGGTCCCGCTCTACGACAAGGAGGTGTTCCAGAGGGGCGTGCCCCA 780
 721 nSerAlaSerValArgValProLeuTyrAspLysGluValPheProGluGlyValProGl
 GCTCCGCCAGTTTTACAACCTCGGACCTCAGCCGCTGCATGCACGAGGCGCTGTACACCGG 840
 781 nLeuArgGlnPheTyrAsnSerAspLeuSerArgCysMetHisGluAlaLeuTyrThrGl
 GCTGGCGCAGGCGCTGCGCTCCGACGGGTGGGCAAGCTGGTGGAGCTGCTGGAGAAGCA 900
 841 yLeuAlaGlnAlaLeuArgValArgArgValGlyLysLeuValGluLeuLeuGluLysGl
 PstI
 901 GAGCCTGCAGGACCAGGCCAAGGTGGCCAAGGTGGCCCCCTCAAGGAGTTCACGCGCTC 960

- 2 -

nSerLeuGlnAspGlnAlaLysValAlaLysValAlaProLeuLysGluPheProAlaSe
 961 AACCATCAGTCACCCGGACTCGGGAGCCTTAATGATTGTGGACAGCGCGCATGCGAGCT 1020
 rThrIleSerHisProAspSerGlyAlaLeuMetIleValAspSerAlaAlaCysGluLe
 1021 GGCGGTGAAGCTACGCACCCGCCATGCTGGAGGGCTCGGCACGAGACCCCGGCCAGCCTCAA 1080
 uAlaValSerTyrAlaProAlaMetLeuGluAlaSerHisGluThrProAlaSerLeuAs
 1081 CTACGACTCGTGGCCCTGTGTTGGCGACTGTGAGGGTCCAGAGGCCCGTGTGGCTGCGTT 1140
 nTyrAspSerTrpProLeuPheAlaAspCysGluGlyProGluAlaArgValAlaAlaLe
 1141 ACACCGATATAATGCCAGCCTGGCCCCCAGGTGTCCACGCAGATCTTGGCCACCAATTC 1200
 uHisArgTyrAsnAlaSerLeuAlaProHisValSerThrGlnIlePheAlaThrAsnSe
 1201 CGTCCCTCTACGTCCTCGGGGGTCTCGAAGTCAACCGGTGAGGCAAGGAGAGTCTCTTTAA 1260
 rValLeuTyrValSerGlyValSerLysSerThrGlyGlnGlyLysGluSerLeuPheAs
 1261 CAGTTTCTACATGACCCACGGCCTGGGGACCTGCGAGGAGGGGACCTGGGACCCCTGCCG 1320
 nSerPheTyrMetThrHisGlyLeuGlyThrLeuGlnGluGlyThrTrpAspProCysAr
 1321 CCGACCCCTGCTTCTCGGGCTGGGGTGGGCCAGACGTGACCGGAACCAACGGTCCGGGAAA 1380
 gArgProCysPheSerGlyTrpGlyGlyProAspValThrGlyThrAsnGlyProGlyAs
 1381 CTACGCTGTGGAGCACCTGGTCTATGCGGCTCCTTCTCGCCCAACCTTCTTGGCCGCTA 1440
 nTyrAlaValGluHisLeuValTyrAlaAlaSerPheSerProAsnLeuLeuAlaArgTy
 1441 TGCCCTACTACCTGCAGTTTTGGCAGGGACAGAAGAGCTCTCTGACCCCGGTGCCGGAGAC 1500
 rAlaTyrTyrLeuGlnPheCysGlnGlyGlnLysSerSerLeuThrProValProGluTh
 1501 GGGCAGCTACGTGGCGGGGGCGGCCAGTCCCATGTGCTCGCTCTGCGAGGGGCCGGGC 1560
 rGlySerTyrValAlaGlyAlaAlaAlaSerProMetCysSerLeuCysGluGlyArgAl
 1561 CCCGGCCGTTGCTGAACACGCTCTTTTAGGCTGAGGGACCGCTTCCCCCGCTCAT 1620
 aProAlaValCysLeuAsnThrLeuPhePheArgLeuArgAspArgPheProProValMe
 1621 GTCCACGACGCGGAGGGACCCCTATGTGATCTCGGGGGCCTCGGGCTCCTACAACGAGAC 1680
 tSerThrGlnArgArgAspProTyrValIleSerGlyAlaSerGlySerTyrAsnGluTh
 1681 GGACTTTTGGGCAACTTCTCAACTTCATCGATAAGGAGGACGACGGGCAAGGCCGGGA 1740
 rAspPheLeuGlyAsnPheLeuAsnPheIleAspLysGluAspAspGlyGlnArgProAs
 1741 CGACGAGCCCCGCTACACCTACTGGCAGCTGAACCAAGAACCTGCTGGAGCGGCTGTCTCG 1800
 pAspGluProArgTyrThrTyrTrpGlnLeuAsnGlnAsnLeuLeuGluArgLeuSerAr
 1801 GCTGGGCATAGACGCTGAAGGAAAGCTAGAGAAAGGAGCCCCATGGCCCGCGTACTTTGT 1860
 gLeuGlyIleAspAlaGluGlyLysLeuGluLysGluProHisGlyProArgAspPheVa

1861	CAAGATGTTTCAAGGACGTGGATGCGGCGGTGGACGCCAAGGTGGTCCAGTTTATGAACAG -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ lLysMetPheLysAspValAspAlaAlaValAspAlaGluValValGlnPheMetAsnSe	1920
1921	CATGGCCAGAGAACAAACATCACCTACAAAGGACCTGGTCAAGAGCTGCTACCCAGTGTATGCA -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ rMetAlaLysAsnAsnIleThrTyrLysAspLeuValLysSerCysTyrHisValMetG1	1980
1981	GTACTCGTGCACACCCCTTTGGCGAGCCCCGGCTGCCCCATCTTCACCCAGCTGTTTTACCG -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ nTyrSerCysAsnProPheAlaGlnProAlaCysProIlePheThrGlnLeuPheTyrAr Pst I	2040
2041	CTCACTGCTGACCATCCTGCGAGGACATCTCCCTGCCCATCTGTATGTGCTATGAGAAATGA -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ gSerLeuLeuThrIleLeuGlnAspIleSerLeuProIleCysMetCysTyrGluAsnAs	2100
2101	CAACCCCGGGCTTGGCCAGAGCCCCCAGAGGTGGCTAAAGGGTCACTACCAGACGCTGTG -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ pAsnProGlyLeuGlyGlnSerProProGluTrpLeuLysGlyHisTyrGlnThrLeuCy	2160
2161	CACCAACTTTAGGAGCCTGGCCATCGACAAGGGGGTCCCTCACGGCCAAGGAGGCCAAGGT -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ sThrAsnPheArgSerLeuAlaIleAspLysGlyValLeuThrAlaLysGluAlaLysVa Pst I	2220
2221	GGTGCATGGGGAGCCACCTGCGACCTGCCAGACCTGGACGCGGGCCCTGCAGGGCCGGGT -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ lValHisGlyGluProThrCysAspLeuProAspLeuAspAlaAlaLeuGlnGlyArgVa	2280
2281	GTACGGCCGGCGGCTGCTGTGCGCATGTCCAAGGTGCTGATGCTGTGCCCCAGGAACAT -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ lTyrGlyArgArgLeuProValArgMetSerLysValLeuMetLeuCysProArgAsnIl	2340
2341	CAAGATCAAGAACAGGGTGGTCTTCACGGGGGAGAAATGCCGCCCTCCAGAACAGCTTCAT -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ eLysIleLysAsnArgValValPheThrGlyGluAsnAlaAlaLeuGlnAsnSerPheIl	2400
2401	CAAGTCCACTACCAGGAGGGGAGAACTACATCATCAACGGGCCCTACATGAAATTCTTCAA -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ eLysSerThrThrArgArgGluAsnTyrIleIleAsnGlyProTyrMetLysPheLeuAs	2460
2461	CACCTACCACAAGACCCTATTCCCGGACACTAAGCTCTCAAGCCTGTACCTGTGGACAA -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ nThrTyrHisLysThrLeuPheProAspThrLysLeuSerSerLeuTyrLeuTrpHisAs	2520
2521	CTTTTCCAGGCGGCGCTCGGTCCCTGTCCCCAGCGGGGCCAGCGCGGAGGAGTACTCTGA -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ nPheSerArgArgArgSerValProValProSerGlyAlaSerAlaGluGluTyrSerAs	2580
2581	CCTGGCCCTCTTTGTGGACGGGGGCTCCCGGGCCACGAAGAGAGCAACGTATAGATGT -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ pLeuAlaLeuPheValAspGlyGlySerArgAlaHisGluGluSerAsnValIleAspVa	2640
2641	GGTGCCTGGCAACCTGGTCACTTACGCCAAGCAGAGGCTCAACAACGCCATCCTGAAGGC -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ lValProGlyAsnLeuValThrTyrAlaLysGlnArgLeuAsnAsnAlaIleLeuLysAl	2700
2701	GTGCGGCCAGACCCAGTTCTACATCAGCCTGATTCAAGGGACTGGTGGCGAGGACGCAGTC -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aCysGlyGlnThrGlnPheTyrIleSerLeuIleGlnGlyLeuValProArgThrGlnSe	2760

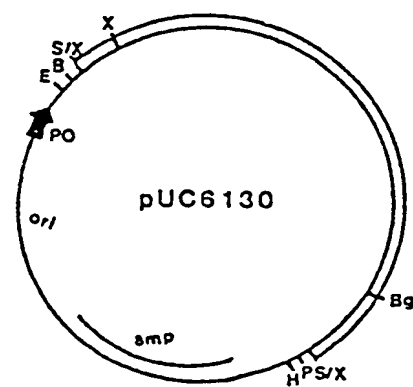
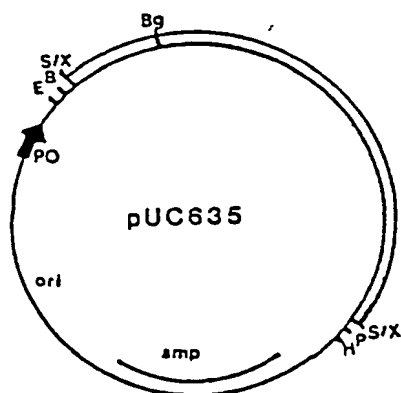
2761	GGTGGCCCGCCCGTGACTACCCCCACGTACTGGGACGCGGGCGGTGGAGTCGGCAGCGGC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ rValProAlaArgAspTyrProHisValLeuGlyThrArgAlaValGluSerAlaAlaAl	2820
2821	CTACGCGGAGGCCACCTCCTCCTTACTGCGACCACGGTGGTCTGCGCGGCCACAGACTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aTyrAlaGluAlaThrSerSerLeuThrAlaThrThrValValCysAlaAlaThrAspCy	2880
2981	TCTTAGCCAGGTCTGCAAGGCCCGTCCGGTTGTACGCTGCCAGTGACCATCAACAAGTA +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ sLeuSerGlnValCysLysAlaArgProValValThrLeuProValThrIleAsnLysTy	2940
2941	CACGGGGGTCAACGGCAACAACCAGATATTCCAGGCCGGGAACCTGGGATACTTTATGGG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ rThrGlyValAsnGlyAsnAsnGlnIlePheGlnAlaGlyAsnLeuGlyTyrPheMetG1	3000
3001	CCGGGGCGCTGGACAGGAACCTGCTGCAAGGCCCGGGGCTGGGCTGCGCAAGCAGGCCGG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ yArgGlyValAspArgAsnLeuLeuGlnAlaProGlyAlaGlyLeuArgLysGlnAlaG1	3060
3061	GGGCTCTTCCATGCGGAAGAAGTTTGTCTTTGCCACCCCCACCCTAGGGTTGACCGTGAA +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ yGlySerSerMetArgLysLysPheValPheAlaThrProThrLeuGlyLeuThrValLy	3120
3121	GCGCCGGACCCAAGCCGCGACCCACATATGAGATTGAGAACATCAGGGCTGGCCTGGAGGC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ sArgArgThrGlnAlaAlaThrThrTyrGluIleGluAsnIleArgAlaGlyLeuGluAl	3180
3181	CATTATATCACAAAACAGGAGGGAAGACTGTGTGTTTGATGTGGTGTGCAACCTTGTGGA +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aIleIleSerGlnLysGlnGluGluAspCysValPheAspValValCysAsnLeuValAs	3240
3241	TGCCATGGGCGAGGCATGCGCCTCGCTGACTAGGGACGACGCGGAGTACTTATTGGGCCG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ pAlaMetGlyGluAlaCysAlaSerLeuThrArgAspAspAlaGluTyrLeuLeuGlyAr	3300
3301	CTTCTCCGTCTCTGGCGGACAGCTCCTAGAAACCCTGGCGACCATTGCTTCCAGCGGGAT +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ gPheSerValLeuAlaAspSerValLeuGluThrLeuAlaThrIleAlaSerSerGlyIl	3360
3361	AGAGTGGACGGCGGAGGCCGCTCGGGACTTTCTGGAGGGAGTGTGGGGTGGGCCCGGGGC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ eGluTrpThrAlaGluAlaAlaArgAspPheLeuGluGlyValTrpGlyGlyProGlyAl	3420
3421	AGCCCGAGGACAACCTTTATACGCGTGGCCGAGCCGATCAGCACCAGCTGCGAGGCTCGGC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aAlaGlnAspAsnPheIleSerValAlaGluProValSerThrAlaSerGlnAlaSerAl	3480
3481	CGGGCTGCTGCTGGGTGGAGGAGGGGCAAGGCTCCGGGGGCGAGCGCAAGCGCCGTCTGGC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aGlyLeuLeuLeuGlyGlyGlyGlyGlnGlySerGlyGlyArgArgLysArgArgLeuAl	3540
3541	CACCGTTCTCCCGGACTCGAGGTCTAGAGACCCCTGGGGCGGCGATGTCGGGGCTGCTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ aThrValLeuProGlyLeuGluValEnd	3600
3601	GCGGCGGCGTACAGCCAGGTGTACGCCCTGGCGGTTGAGCTGAGCGTGTGACCCCGGCTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ GACCCCGGAGTCTGGACGTGGCTGCGGTGGTGGCGAACGCCGGCCTGCTGGCCGAGCTG	3660
3661		3720

- 5 -

```
3721  GAGGGCCATCCCTCCCTTCCCCGTTTGAGACGGCAGAAATGACCGTGCATGCAGCGCCCTGTCC 3780
      -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
                        Xho I
3781  CTGGAGGCTGGTGCACCTGCTAGAGAACTCGAGAGAGGGCCCTCTGCCGCGCTGCTCGCCCTT 3840
      -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
3841  GGTAGAAAGGG 3851
      -----+-----
```

Figure 4:

Restriction map of the plasmids pUC635 and pUC6130.



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Figure 5:

Expression of the p138 fusion protein encoded by pUC635,
pUC924, pMF924, and pKK378

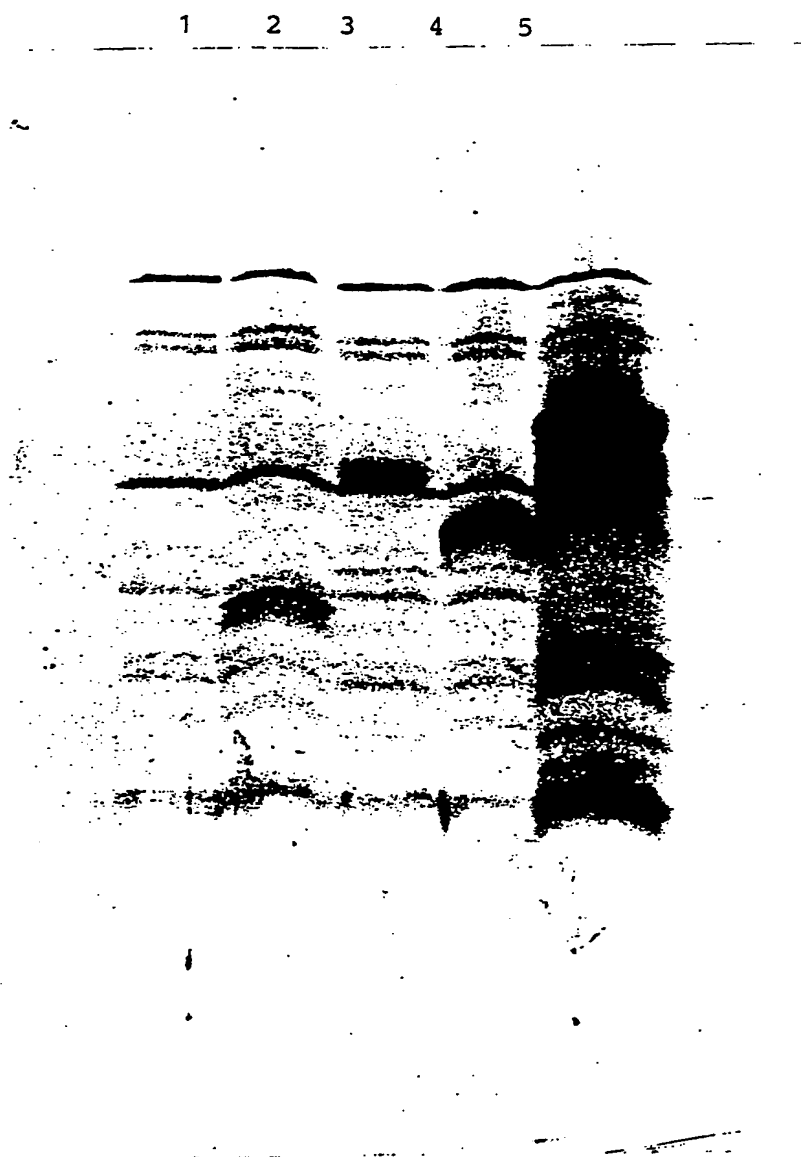


Figure 6:
Restriction map of the plasmid pUC924

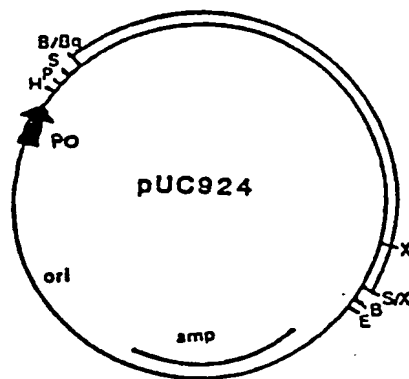


Figure 7:
Restriction map of the plasmid pMF924.

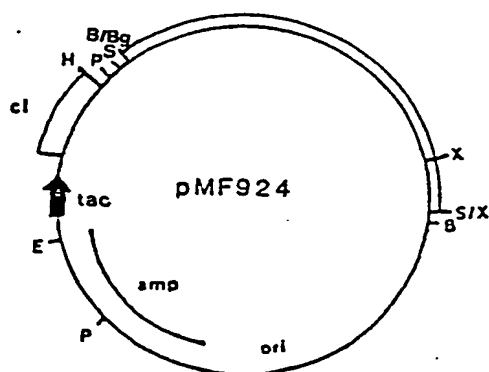


Figure 8:

Restriction map of the plasmid pKK378.

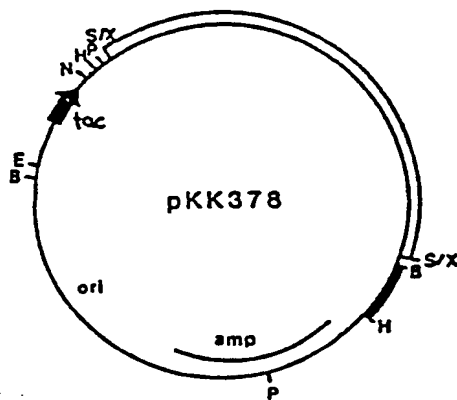


Figure 9:
Secondary structures of p138.

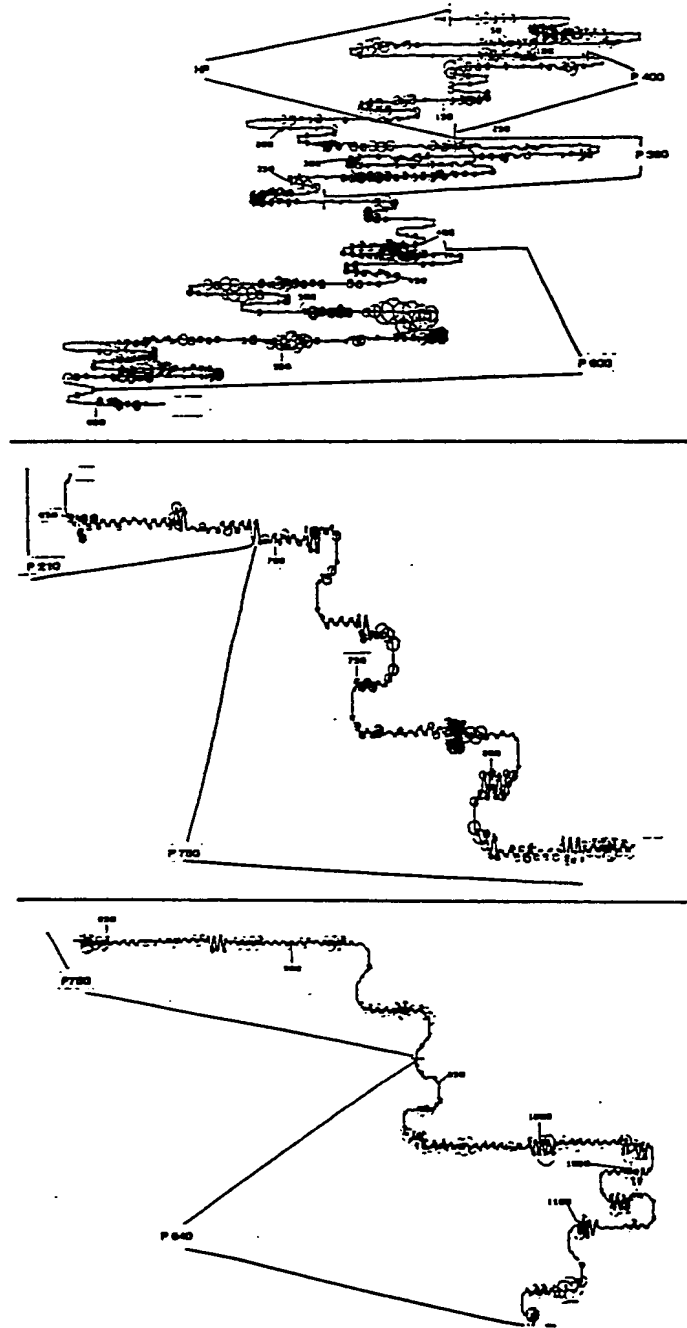


Figure 10:

Expression products of bacteria transformed with the pUR-carrying PstI fragments of p138.

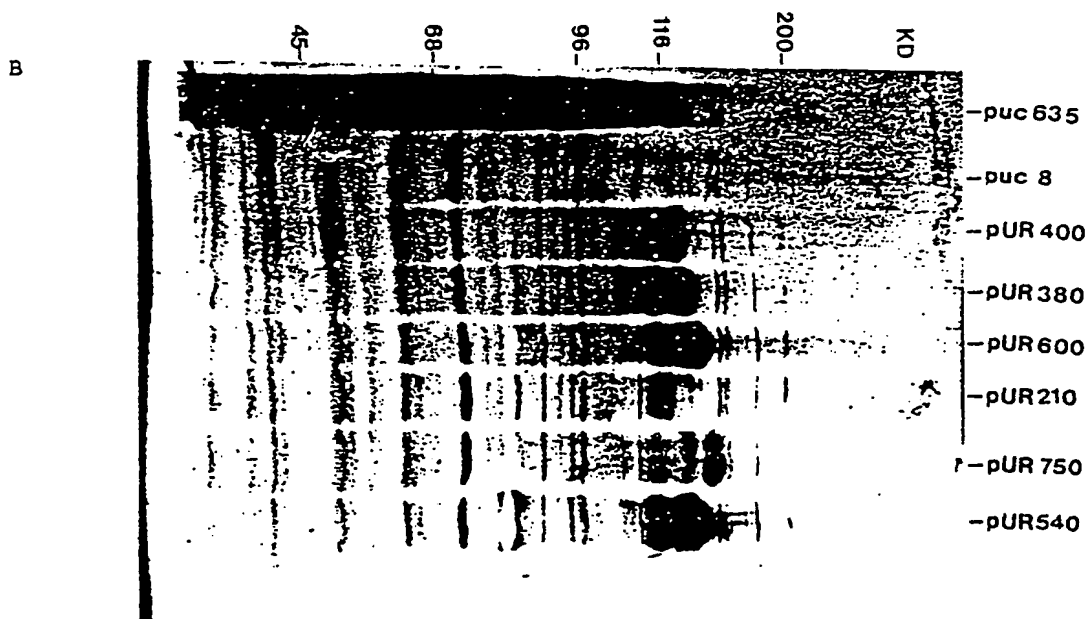
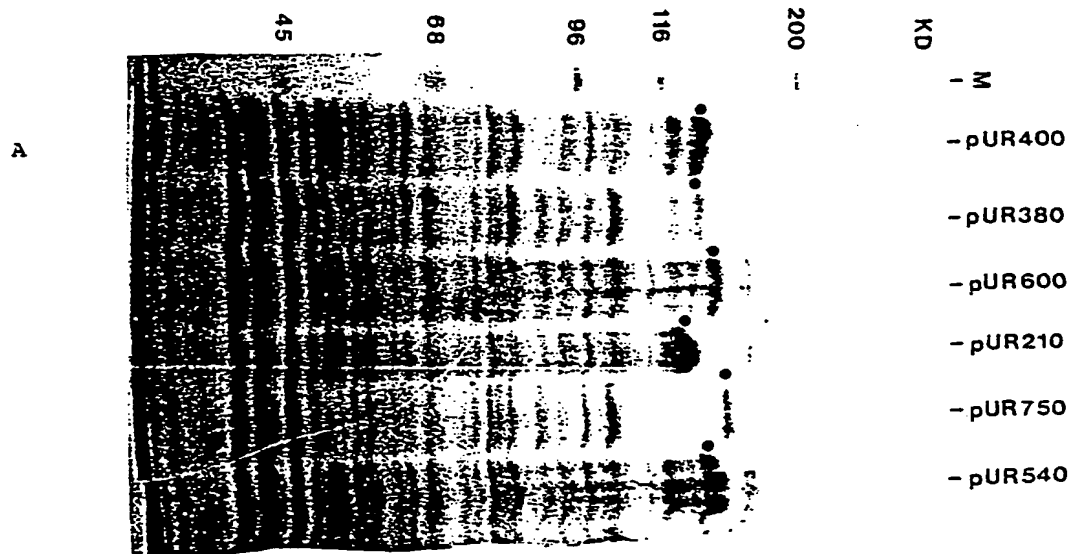


Figure 11:

Expression products of bacteria transformed with the pUC subclones carrying PstI-fragments of p138.

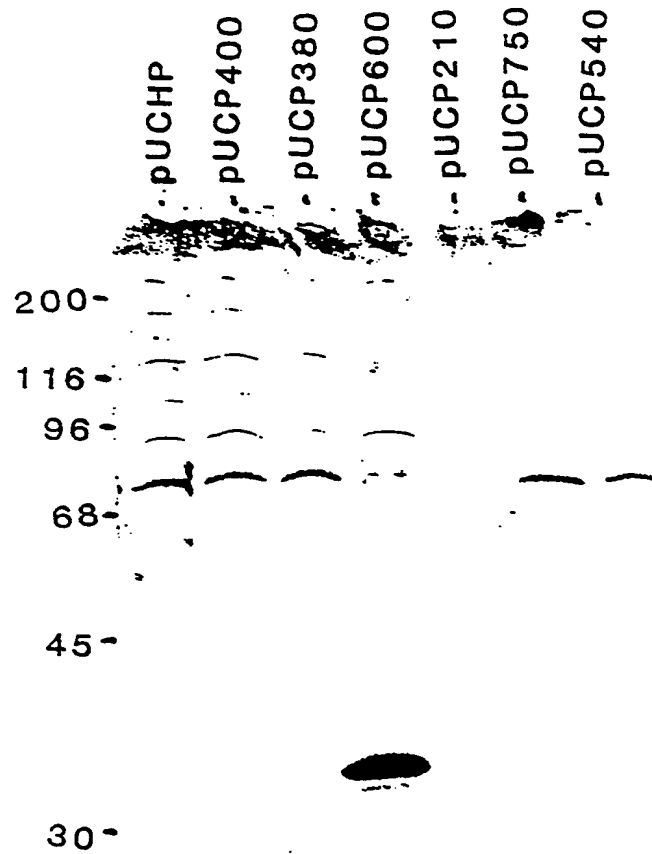
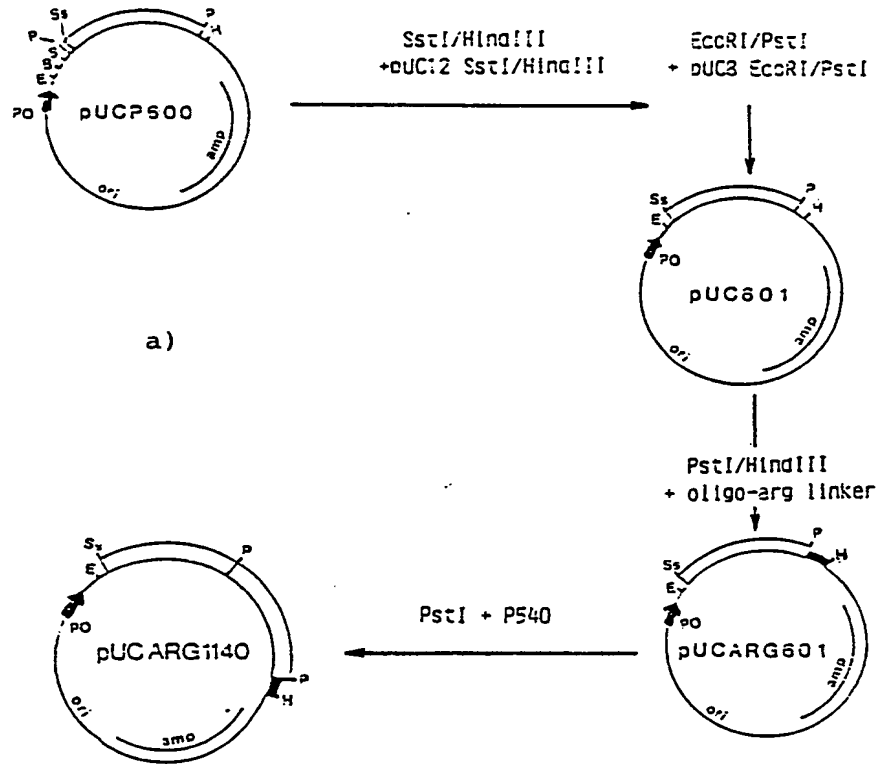


Figure 12:
Construction scheme for pUCARG1140 encoding both
antigenic sites found by expression as β -gal fusion proteins



b)

PstI	5'		HindIII	3'
		G CGT CGT CGT CGT CGT TGA TA		
		AC GTC GCA GCA GCA GCA ACT ATT CGA		
		Arg Arg Arg Arg Arg stop stop		

Figure 13:

IPTG-induced expression of the plasmids pUC600, pUC601, pUCARG601 and pUCARG1140 with pUC8 as a control

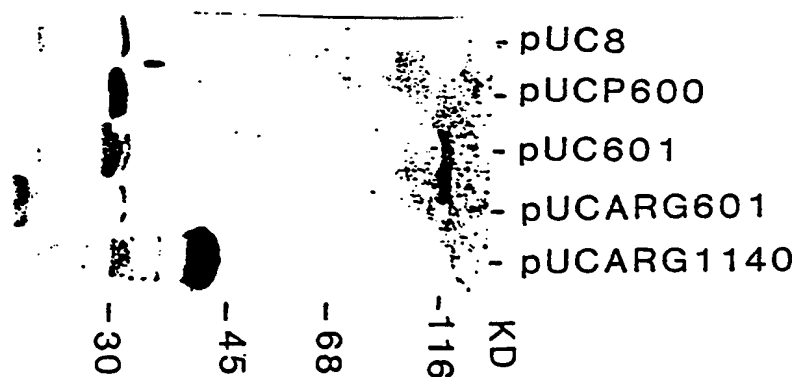
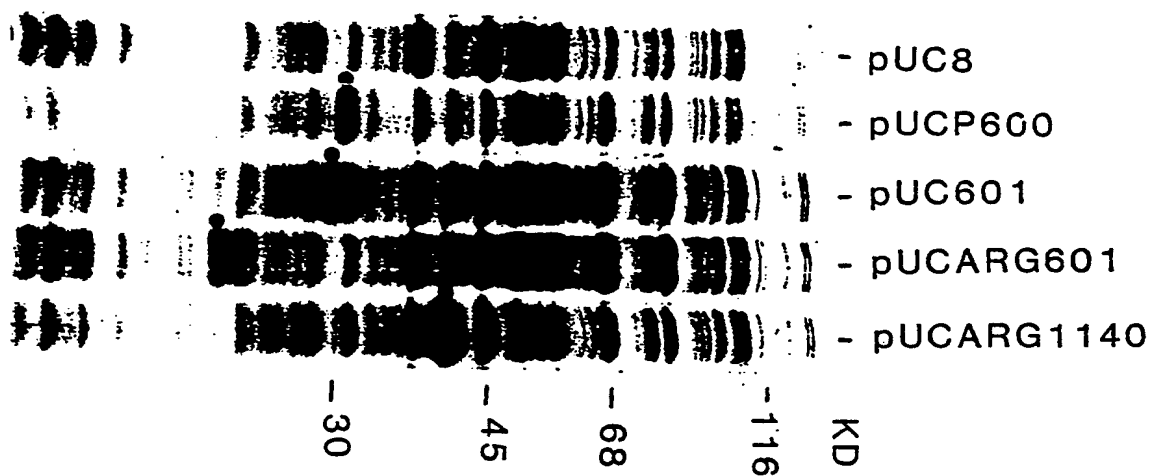


Figure 14:

Distribution and reactivity of the IgG and IgA antibodies of individual NPC-sera against the two epitopes detected in p138

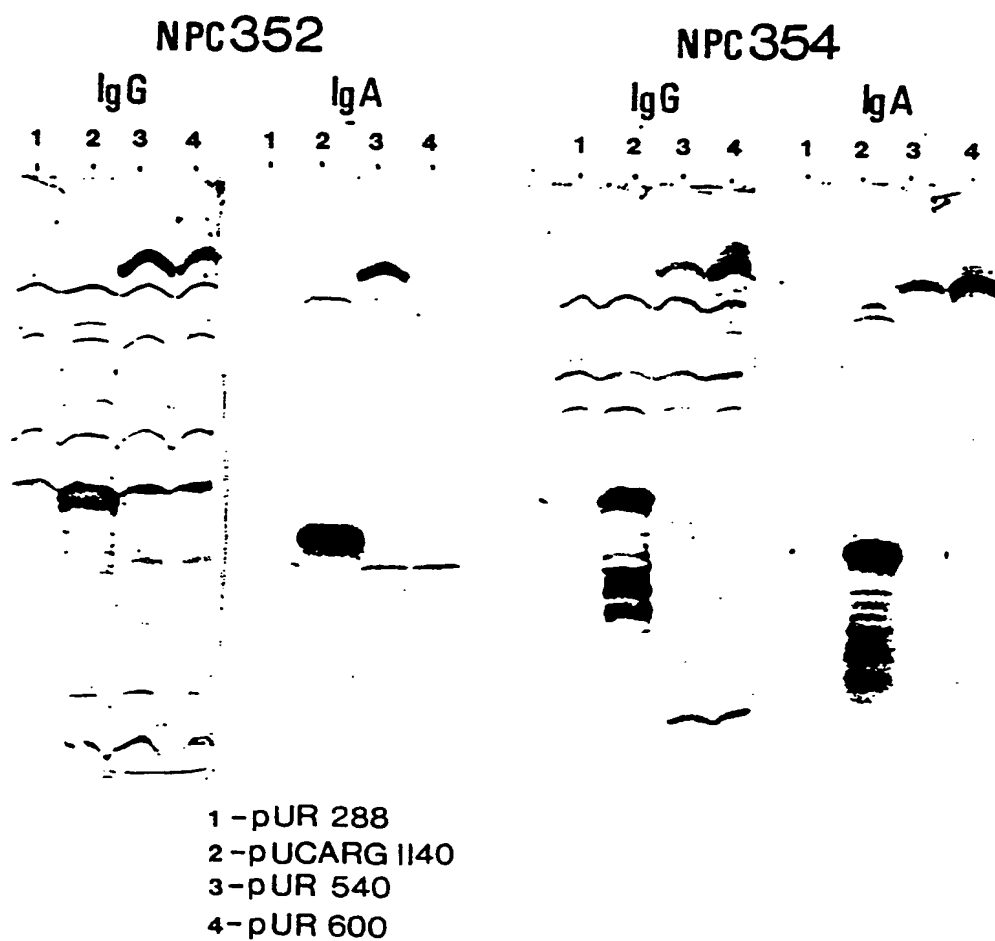


Figure 15:

ELISA test using the protein encoded by pUCARG1140 as antigen

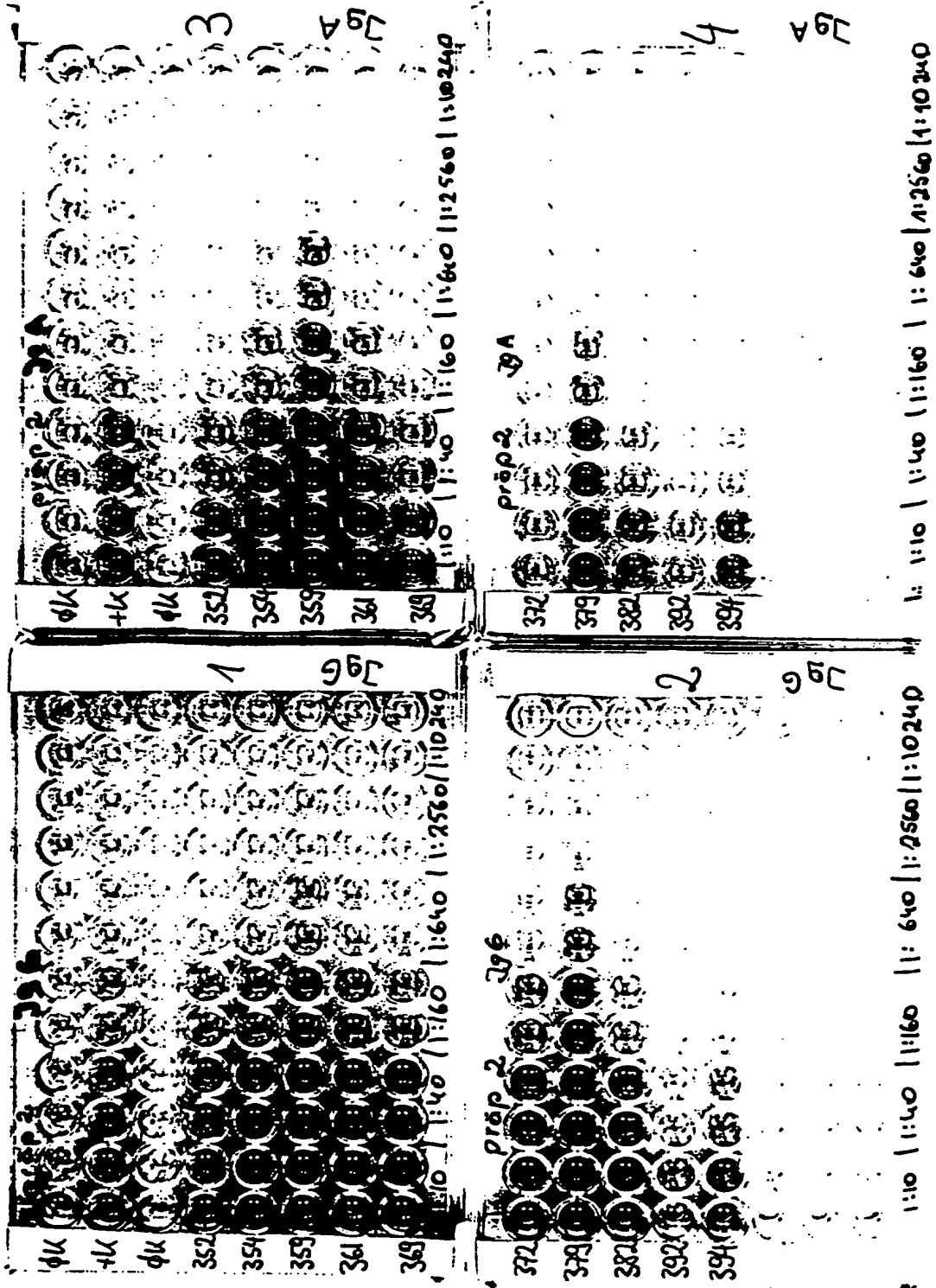
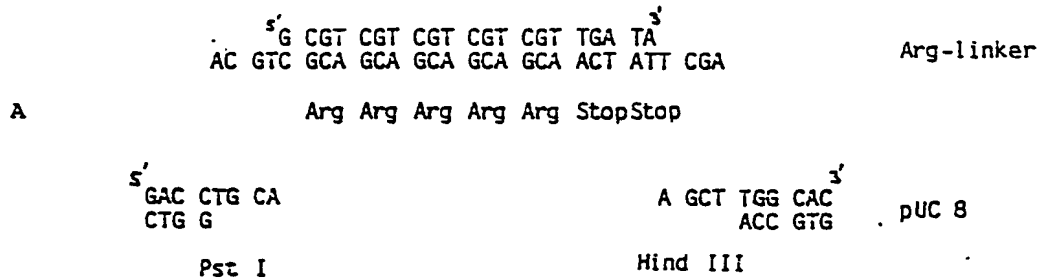


Figure 16:

Purification of proteins carrying oligo-arginine peptides at their carboxy-terminus.



B

Induction with IPTG

Transcription/Translation



Lysis, Zentrifugation



Pellet+ Urea



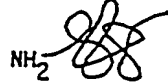
SP Sephadex C-25-Chromatography
NaCl-Gradient



Elution of the expressionproduct
in high salt



Digest with Carboxypeptidase B



Arg
Arg
Arg
Arg
Arg



DEAE-Chromatography



Elution of the expressionproduct
in low salt

Figure 17

```

1  GGATCCGAAAACTGGTCTATGGCTCGTGTGTCGATGCGCTGAAACCAACGGCAACAAAT 60
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
61  TACTTACCTTGTGTGTGTGATGGGTAAAAACACACATCACACACTTAGGCCATAGGGA 120
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
121  TGCTCACCGTAGCCGCGGCTCCAATCGCTTGAAGAAGTGTCTTAGATCTAGTGGAACC 180
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
181  TCGGAGAATGGCTTCTCGCCAGGGAGATCCGGCTGGGGTGGGAGCATGGGTCGTGCTG 240
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
241  GAGCTGACCCACCGGCATCATGATCGACCCGCTTTCTCTTCGTACCCCTTCTGGGCCGGCT 300
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
301  CCAGGTGGGCATCTTCTGCTTCCTTTTCTGAGCTGCTATCTGATAACTCTATGAGGACAT 360
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
361  TTTCCCAATCTCCCGCCGATACCTGTTCTCGCACAAACCGAGGTAGATGGGACTTCTTCTT 420
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
421  CCATGTTGTCATCCAGGGCCGGGGACCCGGCCTGTCCTTGTCCATTTTGTCTGCAACAA 480
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
481  AAGTGTGACTCACCAACACCGCACCCCCCTTGTACCTATTAAAGAGGATGCTGCCTAGAA 540
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
541  ATCGGTGCCGAGACAATGGAGGCAGCCTTGCTTGTGTGTCAGTACCCATCCAGAGCCTG 600
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
MetGluAlaAlaLeuLeuValCysGlnTyrThrIleGlnSerLeu
EcoRI
601  ATCCATCTCAGGGTGAAGATCCTGGTTTTTCAATGTTGAGATTCCGGAATTCCTTTT 660
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
IleHisLeuThrGlyGluAspProGlyPhePheAsnValGluIleProGluPheProPhe
661  TACCCACATGCAATGTTTGCACGGCAGATGTCAATGTAACATCAATTTGATGTGGG 720
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
TyrProThrCysAsnValCysThrAlaAspValAsnValThrIleAsnPheAspValGly
721  GGCAAAAAGCATCAACTTGATCTTGACTTTGGCCAGCTGACACCCCATACGAAGGCTGTC 780
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
GlyLysLysHisGlnLeuAspLeuAspPheGlyGlnLeuThrProHisThrLysAlaVal
781  TACCAACCTCGAGGTGCATTTGGTGGCTCAGAAAATGCCACCAATCTCTTTCTACTGGAG 840
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
TyrGlnProArgGlyAlaPheGlyGlySerGluAsnAlaThrAsnLeuPheLeuLeuGlu
HindIII
841  CTCCTTGGTGCAGGAGAATTGGCTCTAACTATGCGGTCTAAGAAGCTTCCAATTAACGTC 900
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
LeuLeuGlyAlaGlyGluLeuAlaLeuThrMetArgSerLysLysLeuProIleAsnVal
901  ACCACCGGAGAGGAGCAACAAGTAAGCCTGGAATCTGTAGATGTCTACTTTCAAGATGTG 960
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
ThrThrGlyGluGluGlnGlnValSerLeuGluSerValAspValTyrPheGlnAspVal
961  TTTGGAACCATGTGGTGCCACCATGCAGAAATGCAAAACCCCGTGTACCTGATACCAGAA 1020
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
PheGlyThrMetTrpCysHisHisAlaGluMetGlnAsnProValTyrLeuIleProGlu
1021  ACAGTGCCATACATAAAGTGGGATAACTGTAATTCTACCAATATAACGGCAGTAGTGAGG 1080
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

- 2 -

ThrValProTyrIleLysTrpAspAsnCysAsnSerThrAsnIleThrAlaValValArg
 1081 GCACAGGGGCTGGATGTCACGCTACCTTAAGTTTGCCAACGTCAGCTCAAGACTCGAAT 1140
 AlaGlnGlyLeuAspValThrLeuProLeuSerLeuProThrSerAlaGlnAspSerAsn
 1141 TTCAGCGTAAAAACAGAAATGCTCGGTAATGAGATAGATATTGAGTGATTATGGAGGAT 1200
 PheSerValLysThrGluMetLeuGlyAsnGluIleAspIleGluCysIleMetGluAsp
 1201 GGCGAAATTTCAAGTTCTGCCCGGAGACAACAAATTTAACATCACCTGCAGTGGATAC 1260
 GlyGluIleSerGlnValLeuProGlyAspAsnLysPheAsnIleThrCysSerGlyTyr
 1261 GAGAGCCATGTTCCCGAGCGCGGAATTCACATCAACGAGTCCCGTGGCCACCCCAATA 1320
 GluSerHisValProSerGlyGlyIleLeuThrSerThrSerProValAlaThrProIle
 1321 CCTGGTACAGGGTATGCATACAGCCTGCGTCTGACACCACGTCAGTGTCACGATTTCTT 1380
 ProGlyThrGlyTyrAlaTyrSerLeuArgLeuThrProArgProValSerArgPheLeu
 1381 GGCAATAACAGTATCCTGTACGTGTTTACTCTGGGAATGGACCGAAGGCGAGCGGGGA 1440
 GlyAsnAsnSerIleLeuTyrValPheTyrSerGlyAsnGlyProLysAlaSerGlyGly
 1441 GATTACTGCATTCACTCAACATTGTGTTCTCTGATGAGATTCCAGCTTCACAGGACATG 1500
 AspTyrCysIleGlnSerAsnIleValPheSerAspGluIleProAlaSerGlnAspMet
 1501 CCGACAAACACCACAGACATCACATATGTGGGTGACAATGCTACCTATTCAGTGCCAATG 1560
 ProThrAsnThrThrAspIleThrTyrValGlyAspAsnAlaThrTyrSerValProMet
 1561 GTCACCTCTGAGGACGCCAACTCGCCAAATGTTACAGTGACTGCCTTTTGGGCTGGCCA 1620
 ValThrSerGluAspAlaAsnSerProAsnValThrValThrAlaPheTrpAlaTrpPro
 1621 AACAACTGAACTGACTTTAAGTGCAAATGGACTCTCACCTCGGGGACACCTTCGGGT 1680
 AsnAsnThrGluThrAspPheLysCysLysTrpThrLeuThrSerGlyThrProSerGly
 1681 TGTGAAAATATTTCTGGTGCATTTGCGAGCAATCGGACATTTGACATTACTGTCTCGGGT 1740
 CysGluAsnIleSerGlyAlaPheAlaSerAsnArgThrPheAspIleThrValSerGly
 1741 CTTGGCAACGGCCCCAAGACACTCATTATCACACGAACGGCTACCAATGCCACCACAACA 1800
 LeuGlyThrAlaProLysThrLeuIleIleThrArgThrAlaThrAsnAlaThrThrThr
 1801 ACCCACAAGGTTATATTCTCCAAGGCACCCGAGAGCACCACCACCTCCCCTACCTTGAAT 1860
 ThrHisLysValIlePheSerLysAlaProGluSerThrThrThrSerProThrLeuAsn
 1861 ACAACTGGATTTGCTGATCCCAATACAACGACAGGTCTACCCAGCTCTACTCAGTGCCT 1920
 ThrThrGlyPheAlaAspProAsnThrThrThrGlyLeuProSerSerThrHisValPro
 1921 ACCAACCTCACCGCAGCTGCAAGCACAGGCCCCACTGTATCCACCGCGGATGTCACCAGC 1980
 ThrAsnLeuThrAlaProAlaSerThrGlyProThrValSerThrAlaAspValThrSer
 CCAACACCAGCCGGCACAACGTCAGGCGCATCACCGGTGACACCAAGTCCATCTCCATGG

1981	ProThrProAlaGlyThrThrSerGlyAlaSerProValThrProSerProSerProTrp) (-----	2040
2041	GACAACGGCACAGAAAGTAAGGCCCCCCGACATGACCAGCTCCACCTCACCAGTGACTACC AspAsnGlyThrGluSerLysAlaProAspMetThrSerSerThrSerProValThrThr	2100
2101	CCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACC ProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrProAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThr	2160
2161	AGCCCCACCCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTGGGAAAA SerProThrProAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrLeuGlyLys	2220
2221	ACAAGTCTACCTCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTGGGA ThrSerProThrSerAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrLeuGly	2280
2281	AAAACAAGCCCCACCTCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTG LysThrSerProThrSerAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrLeu	2340
2341	GGAAAAACAAGCCCCACCTCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCGGCCCTACT GlyLysThrSerProThrSerAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrGlyProThr	2400
2401	GTGGGAGAAACAAGTCCACAGGCAAATGCCACCAACCACACCTTAGGAGGAACAAGTCCC ValGlyGluThrSerProGlnAlaAsnAlaThrAsnHisThrLeuGlyGlyThrSerPro	2460
2461	ACCCAGTAGTTACCAGCCAACCAAAAAATGCAACCAGTGCTGTACCACAGGCCAACAT ThrProValValThrSerGlnProLysAsnAlaThrSerAlaValThrThrGlyGlnHis	2520
2521	AACATAACTTCAAGTTCAACCTCTTCCATGTCACTGAGACCCAGTTCAAACCCAGAGACA AsnIleThrSerSerSerThrSerSerMetSerLeuArgProSerSerAsnProGluThr	2580
2581	CTCAGCCCCCTCCACCAGTGACAAATCAACGTACATATGCCTTTACTAACCTCCGCTCAC LeuSerProSerThrSerAspAsnSerThrSerHisMetProLeuLeuThrSerAlaHis ----) (-----	2640
2641	CCAACAGGTGGTGAAAAATATAACACAGGTGACACCAGCCTCTATCAGCACACATCATGTG ProThrGlyGlyGluAsnIleThrGlnValThrProAlaSerIleSerThrHisHisVal	2700
2701	TCCACCAGTTCGCCAGCACCCCGCCAGGCACCACCAGCCAAGCGTCAGGCCCTGGAAAC SerThrSerSerProAlaProArgProGlyThrThrSerGlnAlaSerGlyProGlyAsn	2760
2761	AGTTCACATCCACAAAACCGGGGGAGGTTAATGTACCAAAGGCACGCCCCCCCCAAAT SerSerThrSerThrLysProGlyGluValAsnValThrLysGlyThrProProGlnAsn	2820
2821	GCAACGTGCCCCAGGCCCCCAGTGGCCAAAAGACGGCGGTTCCCACGGTCACTCAACA AlaThrSerProGlnAlaProSerGlyGlnLysThrAlaValProThrValThrSerThr	2880
2881	GGTGGAAAGGCCAATTCTACCACCGGTGGAAAGCACACCACAGGACATGGAGCCCGGACA GlyGlyLysAlaAsnSerThrThrGlyGlyLysHisThrThrGlyHisGlyAlaArgThr	2940

- 4 -

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2941 AGTACAGAGCCCACCACAGATTACGGCGGTGATTCAACTACGCCAAGACCGAGATACAAT 3000
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
SerThrGluProThrThrAspTyrGlyGlyAspSerThrThrProArgProArgTyrAsn

3001 GCGACCACCTATCTACCTCCCAGCACTTCTAGCAAAGTGGGCCCCGCTGGACTTTTACG 3060
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
AlaThrThrTyrLeuProProSerThrSerSerLysLeuArgProArgTrpThrPheThr

3061 AGCCCACCGGTTACCACAGCCCAAGCCACCGTGCCAGTCCCGCCAACGTCCCAGCCCAGA 3120
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
SerProProValThrThrAlaGlnAlaThrValProValProProThrSerGlnProArg
PstI *****
3121 TTCTCAAACCTCTCCATGCTAGTACTGCAGTGGGCCTCTCTGGCTGTGCTGACCCCTTCTG 3180
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
PheSerAsnLeuSerMetLeuValLeuGlnTrpAlaSerLeuAlaValLeuThrLeuLeu
*****
3181 CTGCTGCTGGTCATGGCGGACTGCGCCTTTAGGCGTAACTTGTCTACATCCCATACCTAC 3240
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
LeuLeuLeuValMetAlaAspCysAlaPheArgArgAsnLeuSerThrSerHisThrTyr
*****
3241 ACCACCCACCATATGATGACGCCGAGACCTATGTATAAAGTCAATAAAAAATTTATTAAT 3300
-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
ThrThrProProTyrAspAspAlaGluThrTyrValEnd

3301 CAGAAATTTGCACTTTCTTTGCTTCACGTCCCCGGGAGCGGGAGCGGGCACGTCGGGTGG 3360
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3361 CGTTGGGGTCGTTTGATTCTCGTGGTCGTGTTCCCTCACC 3400
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Figure 18

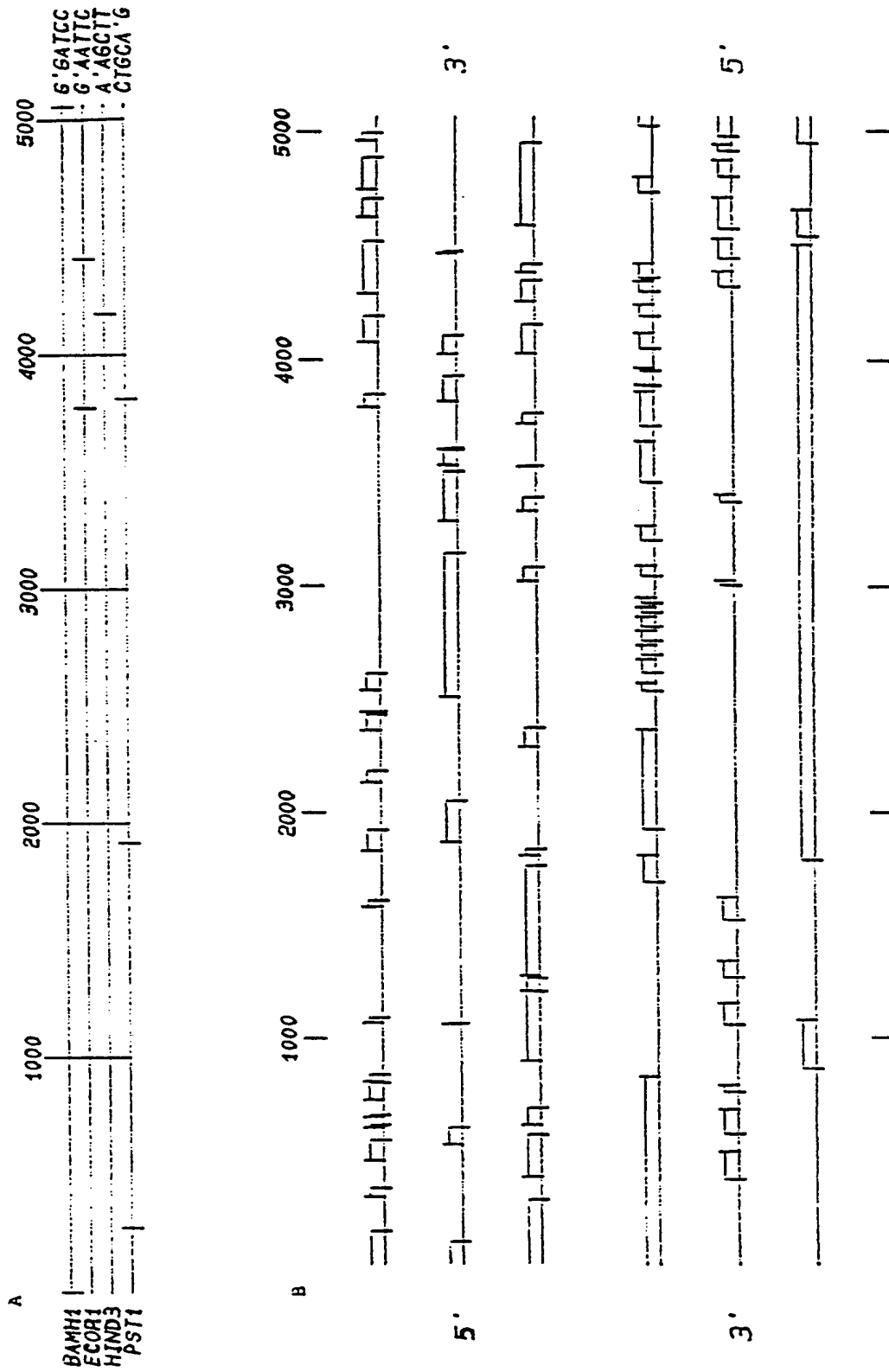


Figure 19

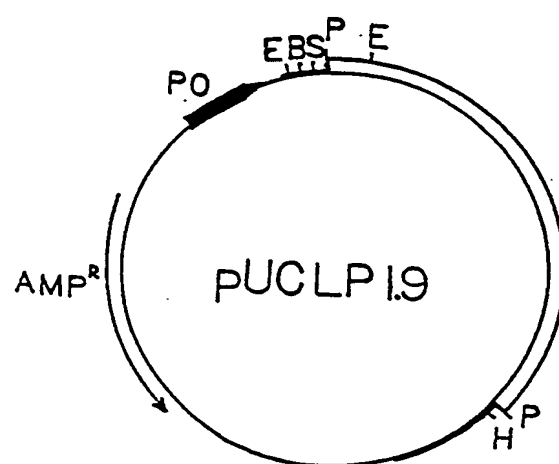


Figure 20

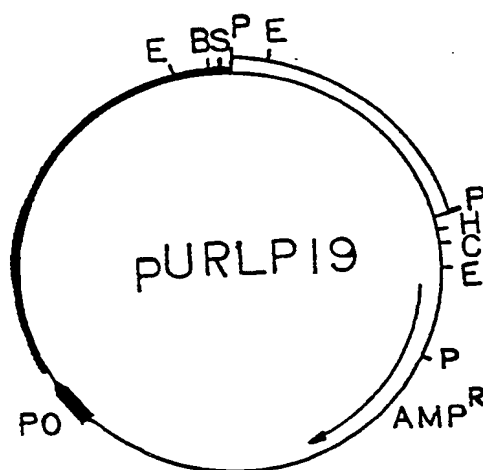


Figure 21

-1-

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1  ACCATGATTACGGATTCACTGGCCGTCGTTTTACAACGTCGTGACTGGGAAAACCTGGC  60
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   MetIleThrAspSerLeuAlaValValLeuGlnArgArgAspTrpGluAsnProGly

61  GTTACCCAACTTAATCGCCTTGCAGCACATCCCCCTTTCGCCAGCTGGCGTAATAGCGAA  120
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   ValThrGlnLeuAsnArgLeuAlaAlaHisProProPheAlaSerTrpArgAsnSerGlu

121 GAGGCCCGCACCGATCGCCCTTCCCAACAGTTGCGCAGCCTGAATGGCGAATGGCGCTTT  180
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GluAlaArgThrAspArgProSerGlnGlnLeuArgSerLeuAsnGlyGluTrpArgPhe

181 GCCTGGTTTCCGGCACCAGAAGCGGTGCCGGAAGCTGGCTGGAGTGCGATCTTCCTGAG  240
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   AlaTrpPheProAlaProGluAlaValProGluSerTrpLeuGluCysAspLeuProGlu

241 GCCGATACTGTCGTCGTCCTCCCTCAAACCTGGCAGATGCACGGTTACGATGCGCCCATCTAC  300
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   AlaAspThrValValValProSerAsnTrpGlnMetHisGlyTyrAspAlaProIleTyr

301 ACCAACGTAACCTATCCCATTACGGTCAATCCGCCGTTTGTTCACGGAGAATCCGACG  360
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   ThrAsnValThrTyrProIleThrValAsnProProPheValProThrGluAsnProThr

361 GGTGTGTTACTCGCTCACATTTAATGTTGATGAAAGCTGGCTACAGGAAGGCCAGACGCGA  420
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GlyCysTyrSerLeuThrPheAsnValAspGluSerTrpLeuGlnGluGlyGlnThrArg

421 ATTATTTTTGATGGCGTTAACTCGGCGTTTCATCTGTGGTGCAACGGGCGCTGGGTGCGGT  480
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   IleIlePheAspGlyValAsnSerAlaPheHisLeuTrpCysAsnGlyArgTrpValGly

481 TACGGCCAGGACAGTCGTTTGCCGTCTGAATTTGACCTGAGCGCATTTTTACGCGCCGGA  540
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   TyrGlyGlnAspSerArgLeuProSerGluPheAspLeuSerAlaPheLeuArgAlaGly

541 GAAAACCGCCTCGCGGTGATGGTGCTGCGTTGGAGTGACGGCAGTTATCTGGAAGATCAG  600
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GluAsnArgLeuAlaValMetValLeuArgTrpSerAspGlySerTyrLeuGluAspGln

601 GATATGTGGCGGATGAGCGGCATTTTCCGTGACGTCTCGTTGCTGCATAAACCGACTACA  660
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   AspMetTrpArgMetSerGlyIlePheArgAspValSerLeuLeuHisLysProThrThr

661 CAAATCAGCGATTTCCATGTTGCCACTCGCTTTAATGATGATTTACGCCGCGCTGTACTG  720
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GlnIleSerAspPheHisValAlaThrArgPheAsnAspAspPheSerArgAlaValLeu

721 GAGGCTGAAGTTCAGATGTGCGGCGAGTTGCGTGACTACCTACGGGTAACAGTTTCTTTA  780
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GluAlaGluValGlnMetCysGlyGluLeuArgAspTyrLeuArgValThrValSerLeu

781 TGGCAGGGTGAAAACGCAGGTCGCCAGCGGCACCGCGCCTTTCGGCGGTGAAATTATCGAT  840
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   TrpGlnGlyGluThrGlnValAlaSerGlyThrAlaProPheGlyGlyGluIleIleAsp

841 GAGCGTGGTGGTTATGCCGATCGCGTCACACTACGTCTGAACGTCGAAAACCCGAACTG  900
   -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
   GluArgGlyGlyTyrAlaAspArgValThrLeuArgLeuAsnValGluAsnProLysLeu

TGGAGCGCCGAAATCCCGAATCTCTATCGTGCGGTGGTTGAACTGCACACCGCCGACGGC

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[illegible]

-3-

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1921	GAATACCTGTTCCGTCATAGCGATAACGAGCTCCTGCACTGGATGGTGGCGCTGGATGGT	1980
	GluTyrLeuPheArgHisSerAspAsnGluLeuLeuHisTrpMetValAlaLeuAspGly	
1981	AAGCCGCTGGCAAGCGGTGAAGTGCCTCTGGATGTCGCTCCACAAGGTAAACAGTTGATT	2040
	LysProLeuAlaSerGlyGluValProLeuAspValAlaProGlnGlyLysGlnLeuIle	
2041	GAACTGCCTGAACTACCGCAGCCGGAGAGCGCCGGGCAACTCTGGCTCACAGTACGCGTA	2100
	GluLeuProGluLeuProGlnProGluSerAlaGlyGlnLeuTrpLeuThrValArgVal	
2101	GTGCAACCGAACGCGACCGCATGGTCAGAAGCCGGGCACATCAGCGCTGGCAGCAGTGG	2160
	ValGlnProAsnAlaThrAlaTrpSerGluAlaGlyHisIleSerAlaTrpGlnGlnTrp	
2161	CGTCTGGCGGAAAACCTCAGTGTGACGCTCCCGCGCGTCCCACGCCATCCCGCATCTG	2220
	ArgLeuAlaGluAsnLeuSerValThrLeuProAlaAlaSerHisAlaIleProHisLeu	
2221	ACCACCAGCGAAATGGATTTTGCATCGAGCTGGGTAAATAAGCGTTGGCAATTTAACCGC	2280
	ThrThrSerGluMetAspPheCysIleGluLeuGlyAsnLysArgTrpGlnPheAsnArg	
2281	CAGTCAGGCTTTCTTTACAGATGTGGATTGGCGATAAAAAACAACCTGCTGACGCCGCTG	2340
	GlnSerGlyPheLeuSerGlnMetTrpIleGlyAspLysLysGlnLeuLeuThrProLeu	
2341	CGCGATCAGTTCACCCGTGCACCGCTGGATAACGACATTGGCGTAAGTGAAGCGACCCGC	2400
	ArgAspGlnPheThrArgAlaProLeuAspAsnAspIleGlyValSerGluAlaThrArg	
2401	ATTGACCCTAACGCCTGGGTGCAACGCTGGAAGGCGGCGGGCCATTACCAGGCCGAAGCA	2460
	IleAspProAsnAlaTrpValGluArgTrpLysAlaAlaGlyHisTyrGlnAlaGluAla	
2461	GCGTTGTTGCAGTGACGGCAGATACACTTGCTGATGCGGTGCTGATTACGACCGCTCAC	2520
	AlaLeuLeuGlnCysThrAlaAspThrLeuAlaAspAlaValLeuIleThrThrAlaHis	
2521	GCGTGGCAGCATCAGGGGAAAACCTTATTTATCAGCCGGAAAACCTACCGGATTGATGGT	2580
	AlaTrpGlnHisGlnGlyLysThrLeuPheIleSerArgLysThrTyrArgIleAspGly	
2581	AGTGGTCAAATGGCGATTACCGTTGATGTTGAAGTGGCGAGCGATACACCGCATCCGGCG	2640
	SerGlyGlnMetAlaIleThrValAspValGluValAlaSerAspThrProHisProAla	
2641	CGGATTGGCCTGAACTGCCAGCTGGCGCAGGTAGCAGAGCGGGTAAACTGGCTCGGATTA	2700
	ArgIleGlyLeuAsnCysGlnLeuAlaGlnValAlaGluArgValAsnTrpLeuGlyLeu	
2701	GGGCCGCAAGAAAACCTATCCCGACCGCCTTACTGCCGCCTGTTTTGACCGCTGGGATCTG	2760
	GlyProGlnGluAsnTyrProAspArgLeuThrAlaAlaCysPheAspArgTrpAspLeu	
2761	CCATTGTCAGACATGTATACCCCGTACGTCTTCCCGAGCGAAAACGGTCTGCGCTGCGGG	2820
	ProLeuSerAspMetTyrThrProTyrValPheProSerGluAsnGlyLeuArgCysGly	

2821	ACGCGCGAATTGAATTATGGCCCCACACCAGTGGCGCGCGCACTTCCAGTTCAACATCAGC -----	2880
	ThrArgGluLeuAsnTyrGlyProHisGlnTrpArgGlyAspPheGlnPheAsnIleSer -----	
2881	CGCTACAGTCAACAGCAACTGATGGAAACCAGCCATCGCCATCTGCTGCACGCGGAAGAA -----	2940
	ArgTyrSerGlnGlnGlnLeuMetGluThrSerHisArgHisLeuLeuHisAlaGluGlu -----	
2941	GGCACATGGCTGAATATCGACGGTTTCCATATGGGGATTGGTGGCGACGACTCCTGGAGC -----	3000
	GlyThrTrpLeuAsnIleAspGlyPheHisMetGlyIleGlyGlyAspAspSerTrpSer -----	
3001	CCGTCAGTATCGGCGGAATTCAGCTGAGCGCCGGTCTGCTACCATTACCAGTTGGTCTGG -----	3060
	ProSerValSerAlaGluPheGlnLeuSerAlaGlyArgTyrHisTyrGlnLeuValTrp -----	
3061	TGTCAAAAAGgggatccgctcgacctgcagTGGATACGAGAGCCATGTTCCAGCGGCGGA -----	3120
	CysGlnLysGlyAspProSerThrCysSerGlyTyrGluSerHisValProSerGlyGly -----	
3121	ATTCTCACATCAACGAGTCCCGTGGCCACCCCAATACCTGGTACAGGGTATGCATACAGC -----	3180
	IleLeuThrSerThrSerProValAlaThrProIleProGlyThrGlyTyrAlaTyrSer -----	
3181	CTGCGTCTGACACCACGTCCAGTGTCACGATTCTTGGCAATAACAGTATCCTGTACGTG -----	3240
	LeuArgLeuThrProArgProValSerArgPheLeuGlyAsnAsnSerIleLeuTyrVal -----	
3241	TTTTACTCTGGGAATGGACCGAAGGCGAGCGGGGGAGATTACTGCATTCACTCCAACATT -----	3300
	PheTyrSerGlyAsnGlyProLysAlaSerGlyGlyAspTyrCysIleGlnSerAsnIle -----	
3301	GTGTTCTCTGATGAGATTCCAGCTTCACAGGACATGCCGACAAACACCACAGACATCACA -----	3360
	ValPheSerAspGluIleProAlaSerGlnAspMetProThrAsnThrThrAspIleThr -----	
3361	TATGTGGGTGACAATGCTACCTATTCAGTGCCCAATGGTCACCTTCTGAGGACGCAAACCTCG -----	3420
	TyrValGlyAspAsnAlaThrTyrSerValProMetValThrSerGluAspAlaAsnSer -----	
3421	CCAAATGTTACAGTGACTGCCTTTTGGGCTGGCCAAACAACACTGAAACTGACTTTAAG -----	3480
	ProAsnValThrValThrAlaPheTrpAlaTrpProAsnAsnThrGluThrAspPheLys -----	
3481	TGCAAAATGGACTCTCACCTCGGGGACACCTTCGGGTTGTGAAAATATTTCTGGTGCATT -----	3540
	CysLysTrpThrLeuThrSerGlyThrProSerGlyCysGluAsnIleSerGlyAlaPhe -----	
3541	GCGAGCAATCGGACATTTGACATTACTGTCTCGGGTCTTGGCAGCGCCCCCAAGACACTC -----	3600
	AlaSerAsnArgThrPheAspIleThrValSerGlyLeuGlyThrAlaProLysThrLeu -----	
3601	ATTATCACACGAACGGCTACCAATGCCACCACAACAACCCACAAGGTTATATTCTCCAAG -----	3660
	IleIleThrArgThrAlaThrAsnAlaThrThrThrThrHisLysValIlePheSerLys -----	
3661	GCACCCGAGAGCACCACCACCTCCCCTACCTGAATACAACCTGGATTGCTGATCCCAAT -----	3720
	AlaProGluSerThrThrThrSerProThrLeuAsnThrThrGlyPheAlaAspProAsn -----	
3721	ACAACGACAGGTCTACCCAGCTCTACTCACGTGCCTACCAACCTCACCGCACCTGCAAGC -----	3780

-5-

ThrThrThrGlyLeuProSerSerThrHisValProThrAsnLeuThrAlaProAlaSer
 3781 ACAGGCCCCACTGTATCCACCGGGATGTACCAGCCCAACACCAGCCGGCACAACGTCA 3840
 ThrGlyProThrValSerThrAlaAspValThrSerProThrProAlaGlyThrThrSer
 3841 GGCGCATCACCGGTGACACCAAGTCCATCTCCATGGGACAACGGCACAGAAAGTAAGGCC 3900
 GlyAlaSerProValThrProSerProSerProTrpAspAsnGlyThrGluSerLysAla
 3901 CCCGACATGACCAGCTCCACCTCACCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCC 3960
 ProAspMetThrSerSerThrSerProValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerPro
 3961 ACCCCAGCAGTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCCAGCAGTGACTACC 4020
 ThrProAlaValThrThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrProAlaValThrThr
 4021 CCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTGGGAAAAACAAGTCCTACCTCAGCAGTGACT 4080
 ProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrLeuGlyLysThrSerProThrSerAlaValThr
 4081 ACCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTGGGAAAAACAAGCCCCACCTCAGCAGTG 4140
 ThrProThrProAsnAlaThrSerProThrLeuGlyLysThrSerProThrSerAlaVal
 4141 ACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCAGCCCCACCTTGGGAAAAACAAGCCCCACCTCAGCA 4200
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 4201 GTGACTACCCCAACCCCAAATGCCACCGGCCCTACTGTGGGAGAAACAAGTCCACAGGCA 4260
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 4261 AATGCCACCAACCACACCTTAGGAGGAACAAGTCCACCCAGTAGTTACCAGCCAACCA 4320
 AsnAlaThrAsnHisThrLeuGlyGlyThrSerProThrProValValThrSerGlnPro
 4321 AAAAATGCAACCAGTGCTGTTACCACAGGCCAACATAACTTCAAGTTCAACCTCT 4380
 LysAsnAlaThrSerAlaValThrThrGlyGlnHisAsnIleThrSerSerSerThrSer
 4381 TCCATGTCACTGAGACCCAGTTCAAACCCAGAGACACTCAGCCCTCCACCAGTGACAAT 4440
 SerMetSerLeuArgProSerSerAsnProGluThrLeuSerProSerThrSerAspAsn
 4441 TCAACGTACATATGCCTTTACTAACCTCCGCTCACCAACAGGTGGTGAAAAATATAACA 4500
 SerThrSerHisMetProLeuLeuThrSerAlaHisProThrGlyGlyGluAsnIleThr
 4501 CAGGTGACACCAGCCTCTATCAGCACACATCATGTGTCCACCAGTTCGCCAGCACCCCGC 4560
 GlnValThrProAlaSerIleSerThrHisHisValSerThrSerSerProAlaProArg
 4561 CCAGGCACCACCAGCCAAGCGTCAGGCCCTGGAACAGTTCCACATCCACAAAACCGGGG 4620
 ProGlyThrThrSerGlnAlaSerGlyProGlyAsnSerSerThrSerThrLysProGly
 4621 GAGGTTAATGTCAACAAAGGCACGCCCCCCCCAAATGCAACGTCCGCCCCAGGCCCCCAGT 4680
 GluValAsnValThrLysGlyThrProProGlnAsnAlaThrSerProGlnAlaProSer
 GGCCAAAAGACGGCGGTTCCACGGTCACCTCAACAGGTGGAAAGGCCAATTCTACCACC

	-6-	
4681	GlyGlnLysThrAlaValProThrValThrSerThrGlyGlyLysAlaAsnSerThrThr GGTGGAAAGCACACCACAGGACATGGAGCCCGACAAGTACAGAGCCCACCACAGATTAC 4741 GlyGlyLysHisThrThrGlyHisGlyAlaArgThrSerThrGluProThrThrAspTyr GGCGGTGATTCAACTACGCCAAGACCAGATACAATGCGACCACCTATCTACCTCCCAGC 4801 GlyGlyAspSerThrThrProArgProArgTyrAsnAlaThrThrTyrLeuProProSer ACTTCTAGCAAAC TGC GGCCCC G CTGG ACTTTT AC G AG C CC ACC G GTT ACC A C AG CCC AA 4861 ThrSerSerLysLeuArgProArgTrpThrPheThrSerProProValThrThrAlaGln GCCACCGTGCCAGTCCC GCCAACGTCCCAGCCCAGATTCTCAAACCTCTCCATGCTAGTA 4921 AlaThrValProValProProThrSerGlnProArgPheSerAsnLeuSerMetLeuVal CTGCAGccaagcttatTCGATGATAAGCTGTCAAACATGA 4981 LeuGlnProSerLeuSerMetIleSerCysGlnThrEnd 5019	4740 4800 4860 4920 4980

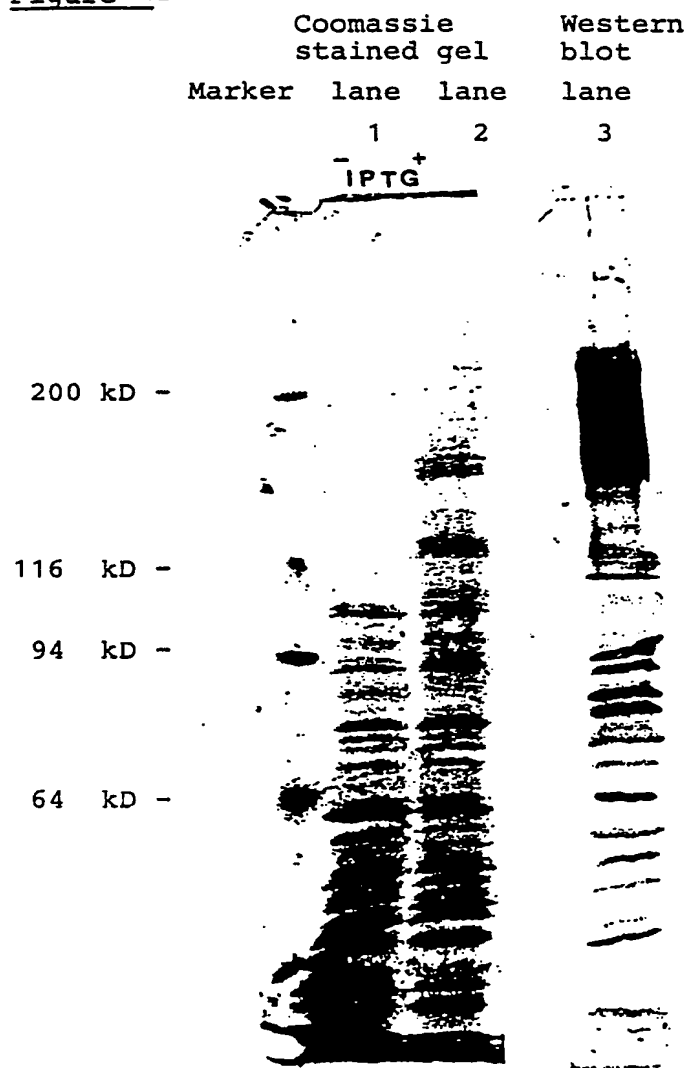
Figure 22

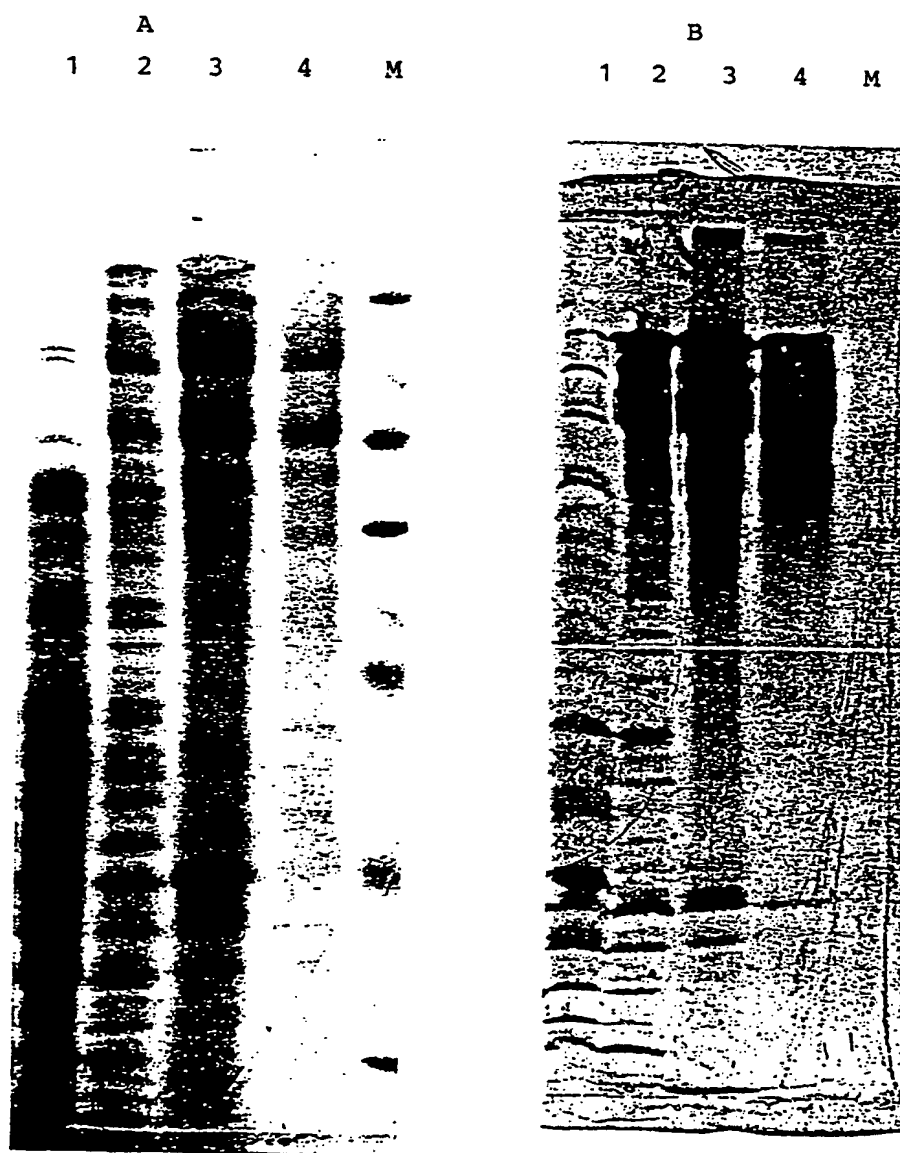
Figure 23

Figure 24



Figure 25:

Expression of gp350-fragments as 8-gal fusion proteins

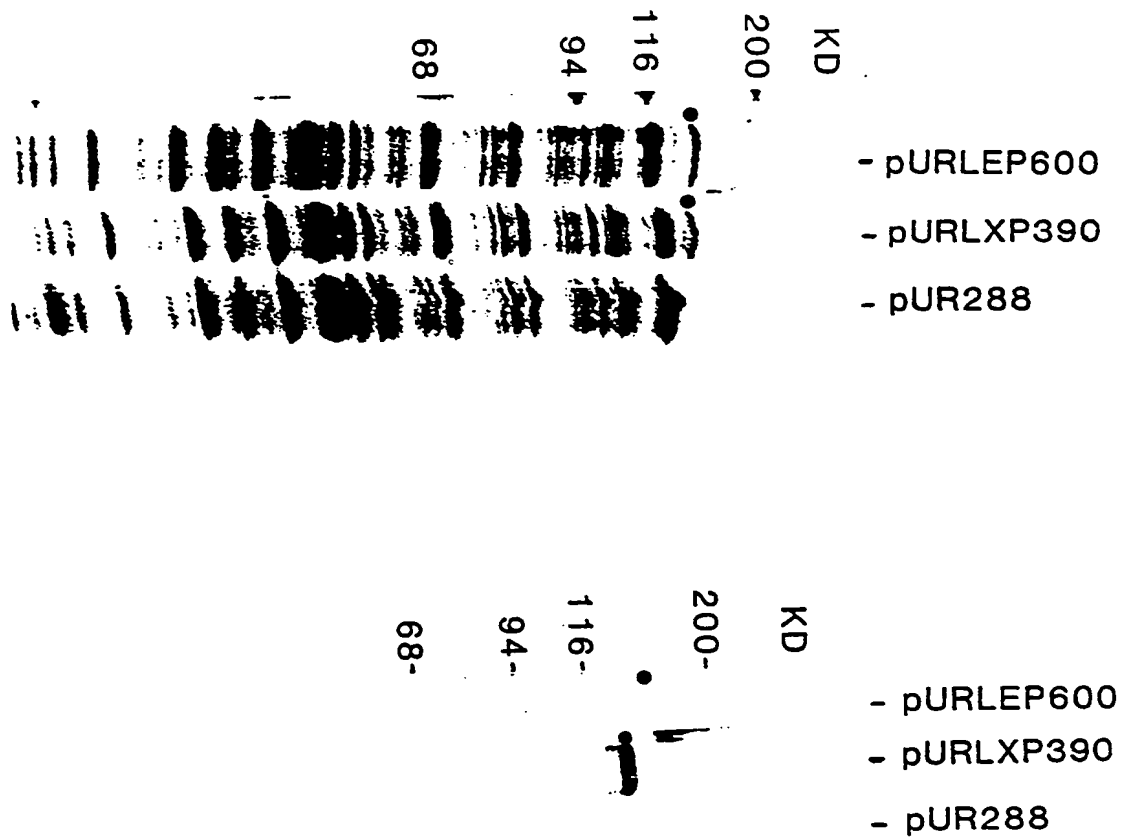
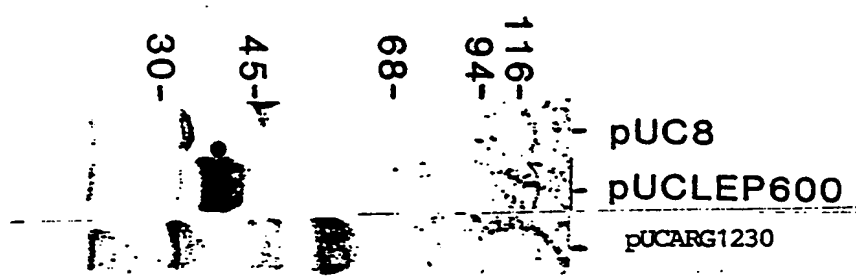


Figure 26:

Expression of proteins



- 1 -

A: p47

[illegible]

- 2 -

c T A S S L Q K W A R Q Q G S G G V K V T
 80469 CTCAATCCGGATCTCTACGICACCACGTAIACITCTGGGGAGGGCCTGCGCTCACCCTAGAC 80528
 GAGTTAGGCCTAGAGATSCAGTGGTGCATAIGAAGACCCCTCCGGACGGAGTGGGATCTG
 c L N P D L Y V T T Y T S G E A C L T L D
 80529 TACAAGCCTCTGATGTGGGGCCATACGAGGGCCTTCACTGGCCCTGTGGCCAAAGGCTCAG 80588
 ATGTTCCGGAGACTCACACCCCGGTATGCTCCGGAGGTGACCGGGACACCGGTTCCGAGTC
 c I K P L S V G P Y E A F T G P V A K A Q
 80589 GACGTGGGGGCCCGTGGAGGCCACGTTGTCTGCTCGGTAGCAGCGGACTCGCTGGCGGGCG 80648
 CTGCACCCCGGGCAACTCCGGGTGCAACAGACGAGGCCATCGTGGCTGAGCGACCGGCCGC
 c D V G A V E A H V V C S V A A D S L A A
 80649 GCGCTTAGCCTCTGCGCGCATTCGGGCCGTTAGCGTGCCAACTCTTGAGGTTTTACAGGICT 80708
 CCGGAATCGGAGACGGCGTAAGGCCGGCAATCGCACGGTTAGAACTCCAAAATGTCCAGA
 c A L S L C R I P A V S V P I L R E Y R S
 80709 GGCATCATAGCTGTGGTGGCCGGCCTGCTGACGTCAGCGGGGGACCTGCCGTTGGATCTT 80768
 CCGTAGTATCGACACCACCGGCCGGACGACTGCAGTCGCCCCCTGGACGGCAACCTAGAA
 c G I I A V V A G L L T S A G D L P L D L
 80769 AGTGTATTTTTATTAAACCACGCTCCGAAGAGGCGGCCGCCAGTACGGCCTCTGAGCCA 80828
 TCACAATAAAATAAATTGGTGCAGAGGCTTCTCCGCCGGCGGTGATGCCGGAGACTCGGT
 c S V I L F N H A S E E A A A S T A S E P
 80829 GAGGATAAAAGTCCCCGGGTGCAACCACCTGGGCACAGGACTCCAAACAAGCCCCAGACAT 80888
 CTTCATTTTTACGGGGCCACGTTGGTGACCCGTGTCTGTGGGTTGTTGCGGGGCTCTGTA
 c E D K S P R V Q P L G T G L J Q R P R H
 80889 ACGGTCAGTCCATCTCCTTCACCTCCGCCACCTCCTAGGACCCCTACTTGGGAGAGTCCG 80948
 TGCCAGTCAGGTAGAGGAAGTGGAGGGCGGTGGAGGATCCTGGGGATGAACCTCTCAGGC
 c T V S P S P S P P P P R T P T W E S P
 80949 GCAAGGCCAGAGACACCCCTCGCCTGCCATTCCCAAGCCACTCCAGCAACACCGCACTGGAG 81008
 CGTTCCGGTCTCTGTGGGAGCGGACGGTAAGGGTGGGTGAGGTCGTTGTGGCGTGACCTC
 c A R P E T P S P A I P S H S S N T A L E
 81009 AGGCCCTCTGCTGTTCAGCTCGCGAGGAAAAGGACATCGTCGGAGGCCAGGCAGAGGAG 81068
 TCCGGAGACCGACAAGTGGAGCGCTCCTTTTCTGTAGCAGCCTCCGGTCCGCTCTCGTC
 c R P L A V Q L A R K R T S S E A R Q K G
 AAGCACCCCAAGGAAGTGGAGCAGGCCCTTTAACCCCTCATTTAACACCATGTTCTCGTG

c

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76377 AAGTGGTTTCAGTGGACACCCACCACACAGCATGGCAACGACCAGTCAATGTCGAGGCATGAG 76436
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 TTCACCAAGTCACCTGTGGGTGGTGTGTCTGTAACCGTTGCTGGTTCAGTACAGCTCGTACTC
 c M A T T S H V E H E
 76437 CTCCCTCTCCAAATTGATTGATGAGTTAAAGGTCAAGGCCAACTCAGACCCCGAGGCTGAT 76496
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 GAGGAGAGGGTTTAACTAACTACTCAATTTCCAGTTCGGGTTGAGTCTGGGGCTCCGACTA
 c L L S K L I D E L K V K A N S D P E A D
 76497 GTCCCTGGCCGGGCGCCTGTCTCCACCGCCTTAAGGCCGAGTCAATACACACACAGTAGCC 76556
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CAGGACCGGGCCGCGGACGAGGTGGCGGAATTCGGCTCAGTCAATGTGTGTGTCTATCGG
 c V L A G R L L H R L K A E S V T H T V A
 76557 GAATACTGGAGGCTTCTCTGACAATTTCTACGATGAGGAATTTCTTCCAGATGCACCGG 76616
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CTTATAGACCTCCAGAGAGACTGTTTAAGATGCTACTCCTTAAGAAGGTCTACGTGGCC
 c E Y L E V F S D K E Y D E E F F Q M H R
 76617 GATGAGCTGGAGACCCGAGTCTCTGCTTTTCGCGCAGAGCCCCGGCTACGAGCGCATCGTC 76676
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CTACTCGACCTCTGGGCTCAGAGACGAAAGCGCGTCTCGGGCCGGATGCTCGCGTAGCAG
 c D E L E T R V S A E A Q S P A Y E R I V
 76677 TCCAGCGGCTACCTGTGCGCCCTGCGCTACTATGACACCTATCTGTATGTGGGGCGCAGC 76736
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 AGGTGCGCGATGGACAGCCGGGACGCGATGATACTGTGGATAGACATACACCCCGCGTGG
 c S S G Y L S A L R Y Y D T Y L Y V G R E
 76737 GGGGAAGCAGGAGAGTGTGACAGCACITTTACATGCGGTTAGCCGGCTTCTGTGCTTCAACC 76796
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CCGTTTCTGCTCTCTCACACGTCGTGAAAAATGTACGCCAATCGGCCGAAGACACGGAGTTGG
 c G K Q E S V Q H F Y M R L A G F C A S T
 76797 ACCTGCGCTCTACGCGGGTCTCAGGGCAGCCCTGACAGCGGGCCAGGCCGGAGATTGAGAGT 76856
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 TGGACGGAGATGCGCCCGAGAGTCCCGTCCGGACGTCGCCCCGGTCCGGGCTCTAACTCTCA
 c T C L Y A G L R A A L Q R A R P E I E S
 76857 GACATGGAGGTGTTTGATTACTATTGAGCACCTAACCTCCCAGACGGTGTGCTGCTCC 76916
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CTGTACCTCCACAACTAATGATGAACTCGTGGATTGGAGGGTCTGCCACACGACGAGG
 c O M E V E D Y Y E E H L T S Q T V C C S
 76917 ACGCCCTTTTATGCGCTTTGCCGGGGTGGAAAACTCCACTCTGCGCAGCTGCACTCCTCACC 76976
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 TGCGGGAATACGCGAAACGGCCCCAUCTTTTGGGGTGGAGACCGGTGACGTAGGAGTGG

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c T P E M R E A G V E N S T L A S C I L T
 76977 ACCCCCGACCTCAGCTCCGAGTGGGACGIGACCCAGGCCCTCTATAGGCACCTGGGGGCGC 77036
 TGGGGGCTGGAGTCGAGGCTCACCTGCACTGGGTCCGGGAGATAICCGTGGACCCCGCG

c T P D L S S E W D V T Q A L Y R H L G R
 77037 TACCTCTTTTCAAGCGAGCCGGGGTGGGTGTAGGGGTGACGGGGGCTGGCCAGGATGGGAAA 77096
 ATGGAGAAAGTCGCTCGGCCCCACCCACATCCCCACTGCCCCGACCGGTCTTACCCTTT

c Y L E Q R A G V G V G V T G A G Q D G K
 77097 CACATCAGCCTCCTGATGAGGATGATCAACAGCCACGTGGAGTACCACAACCTATGGCTGC 77156
 GTGTAGTCGGAGGACTACTCCTACTAGTTGTCTGGTGCACCTCATGGTGTGATACCGACG

c H I S L L M R M I N S H V E Y H N Y G C
 77157 AAGAGGCCGGTICAGTGTGGCGGCTACATGGAGCCCTGGCACAGCCAGATTTTCAAGTTT 77216
 TTCTCCGGCCAGTCACACCGCCGGATGTACCTCGGGACCGTGTCTGCTCTAAAGTTCAAA

c K R P V S V A A Y M E P W H S Q I E K E
 77217 TTGGAAACGAAGCTGCCGGAGAACCACGAGAGGTGCCCGGCATCTTTACGGGGCTCTTT 77276
 AACCTTTGCTTCGACGGCTCTTGGTGTCTCCACGGGCCCCGTAGAAATGCCCCGAGAAA

c L E T K L P E N H E R C P G I E T G L F
 77277 GTCCCCGAGCTCTTCTTCAAGCTTTTTAGGGACACGCCCTGGTTCGGACTGGTACCTGTTT 77336
 CAGGGGCTCGAGAAGAAGTTTCAAAAAATCCCTGTGCGGGACCAGCCTGACCATGGACAAA

c V P E L E F K L E R D T P W S D W Y L F
 77337 GACCCCAAGGACGCCGGGGACCTGGAGAGGCTCTACGGGGAGGAGTTTGGAGCGCGAGTAC 77396
 CTGGGGTTCTGCGGCCCTGGACCTCTCGAGATGCCCTCTTCAAACTCGCGCTCATG

c D P K D A G D L E R L Y G E E F E R E Y
 77397 TATCGGCTGGTGACAGCGGGCAAGTTTTGTGGGCGGGTCTCCAICAACTCCCTGATGTTT 77456
 ATAGCCGACCACTGTGCGCCGTTCAAAACACCCGCCAGAGGTAGTTTCAAGGACTACAG

c Y R L V T A G K E C G R V S I K S L M E
 77457 TCTATCGTCAACTGCGCGCTCAAGGCCGGCAGCCCCCTTCATCTTTTGAAGGAGGGCTGC 77516
 AGATAGCAGTTGACGCGGCAGTTCCGGCGCTCGGGGAAGTAGGAAAACCTTCTCCGGACG

c S I V N C A V K A G S P E I L L K E A C
 77517 AACGCCACATTTTGGCGCGACCTGCAAGGCGAGGCCATGAACGCCGCCAACCTGTGCGCC 77576
 TTGCGGGTGAAAACCGCGCTGGACGTCCCGCTCCGGTACTTGCGGCGGTTGGACACGCGG

c N A H E W R D L Q G E A M N A A N L C A
 GAGGTGCTGCAGGCCCTCGAGGAAGTCTGTGGCCACCTGCAATCTGGCCAAACATCTGCGTC

77577	CTCCACGACGTCGGGAGCTCCTTCAGACACCGGTGGACGTTAGACCGGTTGTAGACGGAG	77636
c	E V L Q P S R K S V A T C N L A N I C L	
77637	CCGCGCTGCGCTGGTGAATGCGCCTCTGGCGGTGCGGGCACAGCGGGCCGACACGACGGGG	77696
c	GGCGCGACGGACCACCTTACGCGGAGACCGGCCACGCCCGTGTGCCCCGGCTGTGCGTCCCC	
77697	P R C L V N A P L A V R A Q R A D T Q G	77756
c	GATGAATCCTGTGCTGGCCCTCCCTCGACTCTCAGTCACCCCTACCTGGAGAGGGGGGACGTC	
77757	CTACTTGAGGACGACCGGGAGGGAGCTGAGAGTICAGTGGGATGGACCTCTCCCCCGTCAG	77816
c	D E L L L A L P R L S V T L P G E G A V	
77817	GGTGAATGGATTCCTGCTAGCCCGCCTCAGAGATGCCACCCAGTGTGCCACCTTTTGGTGG	77876
c	CCACTACCTAAGAGCGATCGGGCGGAGTCTCTACGGTGGGTACACGGTGGAAACACCAC	
77877	G D G E S L A R L R D A T Q C A T E V U	77936
c	GCCCTGCTCCATTCCTTCAGGGATCCCCCACTTATGATTCAGGGATATGGCCTCCATGGGC	
77937	CGGACGAGGTAAGAAGTCCCTAGGGGGTGAATACTAAGGTCCCTATACCAGGATACCCG	77996
c	A C S I L Q G S P T Y D S R D M A S M G	
77997	CTCGGGGTGCAGGGCCTTGGCCGATGTCTTTGCGGACCTGGGGCTGGCAGTACACTGACCCCT	78056
c	GAGCCCCACGTCCCGGACCGGCTACAGAAACGCTTGGACCCGACCGTCAITGTGACTGGGA	
77997	L G V Q G L A D V F A D L G W Q Y T D P	78116
c	CCCTCTCGCTCGTTAAACAAGGAAATATTCGAACATATGTACTTTACGGCCCTCTGCACC	
78057	GGGAGAGCGAGCAATTTGTTCCTTTATAAGCTTGTATACATGAAATGCCGGGAGACGTGG	78176
c	P S R S L N K E I F E H M Y E T A L C T	
78057	AGTAGTCTGATTGGACTTCACACCAGGAAGATTTTTCCGGGTTTCAAAACAGAGCAAGTAT	78236
c	TCATCAGACTAACCCTGAAGTGTGGTCTTCTAAAAAGGCCCAAGTTTGTCTCGTTTATA	
78117	S S L I G L H T R K I F P G E K Q S K Y	78296
c	GCCGGGGGGTGGTTTCACTGGGACGATTTGGGCAAGAACAGACCTTTCTATTCCAGGGAA	
78177	CGGCCCCCACCAGGAGTGGCTGTCTAACCCTGCTTGTCTGGAAAGATAAGGGTCCCTT	78356
c	A G G W F H W H D W A G T D L S I P R E	
78177	ATTTGGTCTCGCCTCTCTGAAACGCAATTTGTGAGGGATGGGCTTTTCAATTCACAGTTTATC	78416
c	TAAACCAGAGCGGAGAGACTTTCGTAAACATCCCTACCCGAAAAGTTAAGTGTCAAAATAG	
78177	I W S R L S E R I V R D G L F N S Q E I	78476
c	GCCCTGATGCCCCACCTCAGGCTGTGCCCCAGGTGACGGCTGTTCGGACGCTTCTACCCC	
78236	CGGGACTACGGTTGGAGTCCGACACGGGTCCACTGGCCGACACAGCCCTGCGGAGGATGGGG	78536

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c A L M P T S G C A Q V T G C S D A E Y P
 78237 TTCTAIGCCAAIGCGTCCACCAAGGTCACCAACAAGGAGGAGGCCCCCTTAGGCCAAACCGG 78296
 AAGATAACGGTTACGCAAGGTTGGTTCCAGTGGTTGTTCCCTCCCGGGAATCCGGTTTGGCC
 c F Y A N A S T K V T N K E E A L R P N R
 78297 TCTTTTGGCGTTCATGTGCGTCTGGATGACAGGGAAGCTTTGAATCTTGTGCGGCGCCGT 78356
 AGAAAAACCGCAGTACACGCAAGCCTACTGTCCCTTCGAAACTTAGAACAGCCCCCGGCA
 c S F W R H V R L D D R E A L N L V G G R
 78357 GTCTCCTGCGCTCCCGGAGGCTCTGCGGCAAGCTACCTGCGTTTCCAAACGCGCTTTGTGAT 78416
 CAGAGGACGGAGGCGCTCCGAGACGCCGTGCGATGGACGCAAGGTTTGCCTGGAACCTA
 c V S C L P E A L R Q R Y L R E Q T A F D
 78417 TACAACCGAGGAGGACCTGATTCAGATGTCCCGGGACAGGGCCCCCTTTGTGGACAGAGC 78476
 ATGTTGGTCCCTCCGACTAAGTCTACAGGGCCCTGTCCCGGGGGAACACCTGGTCTCG
 c Y N Q E D L I Q M S R D R A P E V D Q S
 78477 CAATCTCACAGCCTGTTTTTGGGTGAGGAAGATGCCGCGCGGGCCAGCACGCTAGCCAAC 78536
 GTTAGAGTGTGCGACAAAAACGCATCTCTTCTACGGCGCGCCCGGTGCTGCGATCGGTTG
 c Q S H S L E L R E E D A A R A S T L A N
 78537 CTACTGGTGGCGAGCTACGAGCTGGGCTTGAAGACTATCATGTACTATTGTGCAATTGAG 78596
 GATGACCACGCGTCTGATGCTCGACCCGGACTTCTGATAGTACATGATAACAGCGTAACCTC
 c L L V R S Y E L G L K T I M Y Y C R I E
 78597 AAGGCCCGCGATCTGGGGGTGATGGAGTGTAAAGGCCAGCGCGGCTCTGTGCGTGGCGCGG 78656
 TTCCGGCGGCTAGACCCCCACTACCTCACATTCCGGTCTGCGCCGAGACAGCCACGGCGCC
 c K A A D L G V M E C K A S A A L S V P R
 78657 GAGGAACAGAATGAGCGGAGTCCCGCTGAGCAGATGCCGCTCGTCCCATGGAACCGGCG 78716
 CTCCTTGTCTTACTCGCTCAGGGCGACTCGTCTACGGCGGAGCAAGGTACCTTGGCCGC
 c E E Q N E R S P A E Q M P P R P M E P A
 78717 CAGGTTGCGGGGCGGTTGACATCATGAGCAAGGGCCCCAGGGGAGGGACCAAGGTGGGTGG 78776
 GTCCAAACGCCCCGGCCAACTGTAGTACTCGTTCCCGGGTCCCCCTCCCTGGTCCACCCACC
 c Q V A G P V D I M S K G P G E G P G G W
 78777 TGTGTGCCCCGGGGGATTGGGAAGTGTGCTATAAGTACCGTCAGCTCTTCTCAGAGGATGAT 78836
 ACACACGGGCCCCCTAACCTTCACACGATATTCAITGGCGTCTGAGAGAGGTCTCCTACTA
 c C V P G G L E V C Y K Y R Q L F S E D D
 CTGTTGGAGACTGACGGTTTTTACTGAACGAGCCTGTGAATCTTGCCAAIAAACGTTTTATT

78837 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----**78896**

GACAACCTCTGACTGCCAAATGACTTGCTCGGACACTTAGAACGGTATTTTGCAAATAA

GCCATGTCCAAGTTGTIG

78897 -----+-----+----- 78914
CGGTACAGGTTCACCAAC

3

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1700 TTAGAGACACTATCAGTGTAACTTGACGTGCAAGGATGGAAGAGAGGGGACAGGGAACG 1759
 AATCTCTGTGATAGTGCACATTGAACTGCACGTTCTTACCTTCTCTCCCCGTCCCTTTGC
 M E E R G R E T
 1760 CAAATGCGGGTTGCCCCGATGCGGGGCCCCGTTTATTATGGTAAGGCTCTTCGCGCAAGAT 1819
 GTTTACGGCCAACGGGCCATACCCCCGGGCAAAATAATACCAITCCGAGAGGCCCGTCTA
 Q M P V A R Y G G P F I M V R L E G Q D
 1820 GGAGAGGCAACATACAGGAGGAAAGGCTATAIGAGCTACTCTCTGACCCACGCTCCGCG 1879
 CCTCTCCGTTTGTATGTCTCTCTTCCGATATACTCGATGAGAGACTGGGTGCGAGGCGC
 G E A N I Q E E R L Y E L L S D P R S A
 1880 CTCGGCCTAGACCCGCGGGCCCCCTGATTGCTGAGAACCTGCTGCTAGTGGCGCTGCGTGGC 1939
 GAGCCGGATCTGGGCCCCGGGGACTAACGACTCTTGGACGACGATCACCBCGACGACCCG
 L S L D P G P L I A E N L L L V A L R G
 1940 ACCARCAACGATCCCAGGCTCAGCGTCAGGAGAGGGCCAGAGAAGTGGCCCTCGTTGGC 1999
 TGGTTGTTGCTAGGGTCCGGAGTCGCGAGTCTCTCCCGTCTCTTGACCGGGAGCAACCG
 I N N D P R P G R Q E R A R E L A L V G
 2000 ATTCTACTAGGAAACGGCGAGCAGGGTGAACACTTGGGCACGGAGAGTGGCCCTGGAGGGC 2059
 TAAGATGATCCTTTGCCGCTCGTCCCACTTGTGAACCGTGGCTCTCACGGGACCTCCGG
 I L L G N G E Q G E H L G T E S A L E A
 2060 TCAGGCAACAACATAIGTGTATGCTTACGAGCAGACTGGATGGCAAGGCCTTCCACATGG 2119
 AGTCCGTTGTTGATACATACGGATGCTTGGTCTGACCTACCGTTCCGGAAGGTGTACC
 S G N N Y V Y A Y G P D W M A R P S T W
 2120 TCGCGGGAATCCAGCAATTCCTGCGACTCTTGGGCGCCACGTACGTGCTTGGCTGGAG 2179
 AGGCGCCTTTAGGTGCTTAAGGACGCTGAGGACCCGCGGTGCTGACGAGGCGCACCTC
 S A E I Q Q E L R L L G A T I V L R V E
 2180 ATGGGCAGGCAGTTTGGCTTCGAGGTGCATAGAAGCCGGCCCTCCTTCCGTCAGTTCAG 2239
 TACCCGTCGGTCAAACCGAAGCTCCACGTAICTTCGACCGGGAGGAAGGCAGTCAAGGT
 M G R Q E G E E V H R S R P S E R Q E Q
 2240 GCCATCAATCACTTGTCTGTTTGAACAGCCCTTCGCAAGTACGATTCGGGCCAGGTG 2299
 CGGTAGTTAGTGGAACAGGACAACTGTTGCGGGAGGCGTTCAIGCTAAGGCCGGTCCAC

b	A I N H L V L E D N A L R K Y D S G Q U	
2300	GCSCGCGGGCTTCCAGAGGGCCCTTCTGGTGGCCGGGCCAGAGACCCTGACACGAGGGCCG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ CGCCGCCCCGAAGGTCTCCCGGGAAGACCACCGGCCCGGTCTCTGGCGACTGTGTCTCCGGC	2359
b	A A G E Q R A L L V A G P E T A D T R P	
2360	GACCTCCGCAAGCTGAATGAGTGGGTGTTTGGTGGCAGGGCTGTCTGGTGGCAGACAGCTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ CTGGAGGGCGTTTCGACTTACTCACCCACAAACCACCGTCCCCGACGACCACCGTCTGTCTGAC	2419
b	D L R K L N E W V F G G R A A G G R Q L	
2420	GCCGACGAGCTAAAGATCGTGTCCGCGCTGCGAGACACTTACTCGGGCCACTTGGTCCCT +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ CGGCTGTCTCGATTTCTAGCACAGGGCGCGACGCTCTGTGAATGAGCCCGGTGAACCAGGAA	2479
b	A D E L K I V S A L R D T Y S G H L V L	
2480	CAGCCACGAGACCCCTTGACACATGGAAGGTGTGAGCAGGGACACACGACCGCTCAT +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ GTGCGGTGCTCTGCGAACTGTGTACCTTCCACAACCTCGTCCCTGTGTGCTTGGCGAGTA	2539
b	Q P T E T L D T W K V L S R D T R T A H	
2540	AGTTTGGAGCACGGATTCAITCATGCCGCGGGGACCATCCAGGCCAACTGCCACAGCTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ TCAAACCTCGTGCCTAAGTAAGTACGGCGCCCCCTGGTAGGTCCGGTTGACGGGTGTCTGAC	2599
b	S L E H G E I H A A G T I Q A N C P Q L	
2600	TTTATGAGACGCGACACCCCGGCTCTTTCCCTTCGTTAATGCAATAGCATCATCGCTG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ AAATACTCTGCGGTCTGTGGGGCCGGAGAAAGGGAAGCAATTACGTTATCTAGTAGCGAC	2659
b	F M R R Q H P G L F P F V N A I A S S L	
2660	GGCTGGTACTACCAGACCGCCACCGCGCCCCGGAGCAGATGCCAGGGCGCGCGCCCGCGCG +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ CCGACCATGATGGTCTGGCGGTGGCCGGGGCTCGTCTACGGTCCCGCGCGCGCGCGCG	2719
b	G W Y Y Q T A T G P G A D A R A A A R E	
2720	CAACAGGCCCTTTCAGACCAGGGCGGGCGGCTGAATGCCATGCCAAAAGCGGGGTGCCGGTC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ GTTGTCCGGAAAGTCTGGTCCCGCCGCGGACTTACGGTACGGTTTTTCGCCCCACGGCCAG	2779
b	Q Q A E Q T R A A A E C H A K S G V P U	
2780	GTGGCCGGCTTCTACAGGACCATCAACGCCACGCTCAAGGGAGGAGAGGGCCTACAGCCC +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ CACCGGCCGAAGATGTCTGTAGTTTGGGTGCGAGTTCCCTCCTCTCCCGGATGTCTGGG	2839
b	V A G F Y R T I N A T L K G G E G L Q P	
2840	ACTAIGITTAACGGGGAGCTGGGGGCCATCAAGCACCAGGCACTTGACACTGTGAGGTAT +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ TGATACAAATTGCCCTCGACCCCCGGTAGTTTGGTGGTCCGTGAAGTGTGACACTCCATA	2899
b	T M E N G E L G A I K H Q A L O T V R Y	
	GACTACGGCCACTATCTATAATGTTGGGGCCATTCCAGCCATGGAGCGGACTGACGGCC	

2900	CTGATGCCGGTGATAGAGTATTACAACCCCGGTAAGGTCGGTACCTCGCTGACTGCCGG	2959
b	D Y G H Y L I M L G P E Q P W S G L T A	
2960	CCTCCGTGCCCCCTACGCCGAAAGTTTCATGGGCACAGGCGGCCGTGCAGACGGCCCTCGAG	3019
b	GGAGGCACGGGGATGCGGCTTTCAAGTACCCGTGTCCGCCGGCACGTCTGCCGGGAGCTC	
3020	CTGTTCTCGGCCCTGTATCCCGGCCCGGTGCATCTCGGGCTACGCGCGCCCCCGGGCCCC	3079
b	GACAAGAGCCGGGACATGGGCGCGGGGCACGTAGAGCCCGATGCGCGCGGGGGGCCCCGGGG	
3080	AGTGTCTGTGATCGAGCATCTGGGGTCCCTAGTTCCAAAGGGGGGCTGTCTGTGTTTCTG	3139
b	TCACGACACTAGCTCGTAGACCCCGAGGATCAAGGTTTCCCCCGAGACGACAACAAGAC	
3140	TCTACCTACCGGATGATGTTAAGGACGGGCTCGGAGAAATGGGGCCGGCCAGGGCCACG	3199
b	AGAGTGGATGGCCTACTACAATTCTGCCCCGAGCCTCTTTACCCCGCCGGTCCCGGTGC	
3200	GGACCTGGAATGCAGCAGTTTGTACGACGCTACTTCCCTCAACCCCGCTGTTCACACGTC	3259
b	CCTGGACCTTACGTCTGTAACAGTCGTGATGAAGGAGTTGGGGCGGACAAAGGTTGCAG	
3260	TTCAATTACAGTGAGGACGCGAGGGGGAGAAAGATCAACGGCCGTACCGTCCCTCCAAGCGCTC	3319
b	AAGTAATGTCACTCCGTGCTCTCCCTCTTCTAGTTGCCGGCATGGCAGGAGGTTTCGCGAG	
3320	GGACGCGCATGCGATAAGGACGGCTGCGAGCACTATGTGCTGGGCTCCACGGTTCCCTCTC	3379
b	CCTGCGCGTACGCTATACCGTCCGACGGTCTGTATACGACCCGAGGTTGCCAAGGGGAG	
3380	GGTGGACTCAACTTTGTCAACGACCTTGGCGTCCCCGGTTTCCACCGCCGAGATGATGGAT	3439
b	CCACCTGAGTTGAACAGTTGCTGGACCGCAGGGGGCCAAAGGTGGCGGCTCTACTACCTA	
3440	GATTCTCTCCCTTCTTCACCGTGGAGTTTCCCCGATTCAAGAGGAGGGCGCAAGTTCT	3499
b	CTAAAGAGAGGGGAGGAGTGGCACCTCAAAGGGGGCTAAGTTCTCTCCCGCGTTCAAGA	
3500	CCGATACCTTAGATGTGGACGAGAGCATGGACAICTCTCCGCTTACGAGTTGCCCTGG	3559
b	GGCCATGGGAACTACACCTGCTCTCGTACCTGTAGAGAGGCGAAGTGTCAACGGGACC	

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b P V P L D V D E S H B I S P S Y E L P W
 3560 CTCTCGCTGGAGTCATGCTTCACAGCATCCTGTACACCCCAACCGTGGGAAGCAAGGAG 3614
 GAGAGCGACCTCAGTACGGAGTGTTCGTAGGACAGTGTGGGGTGGCACCCCTTCGTTCCCTC

b L S L E S C L T S I L S H P T V G S K E
 3620 CACTTGGTCAGGCACACGGACAGGGTCAGCGGAGGACGCGTGGCACAGCAGCCCGGGGTA 3678
 GTGAACCAAGTCCGTGTGCTGTCCCAAGTCGCTCCTGCGCACCCGTGTCTGTGGGGCCCAT

b H L V R H T D R V S G G R V A Q Q P G V
 3680 GGTCCCTTGGACCTGCGCTGGCGGACTACGCTTTCGTTGCCACAGTCAGGCTTGGACC 3738
 CCAGGGGACCTGGACGGCGACCGCTGTATGCGGAAGCAACGGGTGTGAGTCCAGACCTGG

b G P L D L P L A D Y A E V A H S Q V W T
 3740 AGGCCCCGGTGGGGCTCCTCCCTTGCCCTATCGTACCTGGGATCGAATGACAGAGAAGCTG 3798
 TCCGGGCCAACCGBAGGAGGGGAACGGGATAGCATGGACCCTAGCTTACTGTCTCTTCGAC

b R P G G A P P L P Y R T W D R M T E K L
 3800 CTGTCTCCGCAAAACCCGGCGGAGAGAACGTTAAGGTTTCAGGTACCGTGATTACATTG 3858
 GAACAGAGGGCGTTTTGGGCCGCTCTCTTGCATTTCCAAAGTCCATGGCACTAATGTAA

b L V S A K P G G E N V K V S G T V I T L
 3860 GGAGAACAGGGGTACAAAGTGTGCTTGGATCTGAGGGAGGGGAACCAAGGCTGGCAATGGCT 3918
 CCTCTTGTCCCATGTTTCACAGCAACCTAGACTCCCTCCCTTGGTCCGACCGTTACCGA

b G E Q G Y K V S L D L R E G T R L A M A
 3920 GAAGCGCTGTGTAACGCGAGCATGTGCCCCAATCTTGGATCCGGAGAGAGCTCTTGGCTTACC 3978
 CTCCGCGACGACTTGCCTGTACACGGGGTTAGAACCTAGGCTTCTGCGAGAACGAGTGG

b E A L L N A A C A P I L D P E D V L L T
 3980 CTGCATCTACACCTGGATCCGCGCCGGGACAGACAACCTCGGCCGTGATGGAGGCTATGACG 4038
 GACGTAGATGTGGACCTAGGCGCGCCCCGTCTGTGAGCCGGCACTACCTCCGATACTGC

b L H L H L D P R R A D N S A V M E A M I
 4040 GCGGCGAGTGACTACGCGCGTGGCTTGGCGGTGAAGCTGACCTTTGGCTCGGCCCTCCTGC 4098
 CGCCGCTCACTGATGCGCGCACCGGACCCGCACTTCGACTGGAAACCGAGCCGGAGGACG

b A A S D Y A R G L G V K L T E G S A S C
 4100 CCGGAGACCGGCTCGTCCGCTCCAACTTCATGACCGTGGTGGCTCTGTCTCCGCCCCA 4158
 GGGCTCTGGCCGAGCAGGCGGAGGTTGAAGTAUTGGACCACCGGAGACAGAGGCGGGT

b P E T G S S A S R E M I V V A S V S A P
 GGGGAATTCTGGGTCTCTGTATCAGCCAGTGTTCAGGAAGACGGGCGGTCTCCTGATT

4160	CCCCITTAAGAGCCCCAGGAGACTAGTGCGGTCACGAAGTCTTCTGCCCGTCAGAGGACTAA	4210
b	G E F S G P L I T P V L Q K T G S L L I	
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b	CGCCACGCAACGCCCTACCGTTCAGGTCCCTCCAGCGACAAACTCGTCGAGAAATCG	
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b	GACGTGGCCACGACCCACGGGCACCCGAGGCGTTGTCTCTGAAGAATCTCTTCCGGGCA	
4340	CTGCACCGGTGCTGGGGTGCCCCGTGGGCTCCGCAACAGAGACTTCTTAGAGAAAGGCCCGT	4390
b	D V A T T P R A P E A L S L K N L F R A	
4400	GTCCAGCAGCTGGTCAAGAGCGGCATCGTGTCTGTACGGGCATGACATCAGCGACGGGGGC	4450
b	CAGGTCTGTGACCAAGTTCCTGCGCGTAGCACGACAGTCCCGTACTGTAGTCTGCTGCCCCG	
4460	V Q Q L V K S G I V L S G H D I S D G G	4510
b	CTGGTGACCTGCGCTGGTGGAGATGGCCCTGGCCGGGCAAGCGGGAGTGACCAATCACTATG	
4520	GACCACTGGACGGACCACTCTACCGGGACCGGCCCGTCCGCCCTCACTGGTAGTGATAC	4570
b	L V T C L V E M A L A G Q R G V T I T M	
4530	CGGGTGGCCTCCGACTACCTCCCGGAGATGTTTGAGAGGACCCCCGGCCTGGTGTTTGAG	4580
b	GGCCACCGGAGGCTGATGGAGGGGCTCTACAAACGTCTCGTGGGGCCGGACCAACAATC	
4590	P V A S D Y L P E M F A E H P G L V F E	4640
b	GTGGAGGAGCGCAGCGTGGGTGAGGTGCTGCAGACCCCTGCGCTCCATGAACATGTACCCG	
4600	CACCTCCTCGCGTGCACCCACTCCACGACGTCTGGAACGCGAGGTACTTGTACATGGGC	4650
b	V E E R S V G E V L Q T L R S M N M Y P	
4610	GCAGTCCCTCGGTGAGTGGGCGAGCAAGGTCCAGATCAAAATGTTTGAGGTGCAGCACGGC	4660
b	CGTCAGGAGCCAGCTCACCCGCTCGTTCAGGTCTAGTTTACAAACTCCACGTCGTGCCG	
4620	A V L G R V G E Q G P D Q M F E V Q H G	4670
b	CCAGAGACGGTGTTCGCCAGTCTGCTGCGCCTGCTGCTGGGAACCTGGTCAICCTTTGCC	
4630	GGTCTCTGCCACAACGCGGTACGCGACGCGGACGACGACCCCTTGGACCAGTAGGAACGG	4680
b	P E T V L R Q S L R L L L G T W S S F A	
4640	AGCGAGCAGTACGAGTGCCTGCGACCAAGATCGGATTAAACCGGTCCATGCAGTGTCCGAC	4690
b	TCGCTCTGTCATGCTCACGGACGCTGGTCTAGCCTAATTGGCCAGGTACGTGCACAGGCTG	
4650	S E Q Y E C L R P D R I N R S M H V S D	4700
b	TACGGGTATACGAAAGCACTGCGAGTCTCCCGGTGGACAGGAAGAATCTCAGCCCCAGC	
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- 14 -

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 GCCAACCCTGCTCTCGGACTGGGTGCTACAGTCCACCGGCACGATACGCGGGGCCCGTGG
 b R L V T E P D P R C Q V A V L C A P G T
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 +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
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 5060 CGTTTTCCCGGCCCTGCGTGACGCTATTCTAAAGTTCCTCAACAGGCCAGATACGTTCTCG 5119
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 5120 GTGGCCTTGGGGGAGCTGGGGGTGCAAGTTTTGGCTGGCCTGGGGGGCCGTGGGGGTCAACA 5179
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 b V A L G E L G V Q V L A G L G A V G S T
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 b P N A S G M E E S R W L N I S I P A T T
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 TCGAGACAGTACGACGACCGGAGGCCCCGAGCGAGGACGGAACAACCCACGTTCCGAGC
 b S S V M L R G L R G C V L P C W V Q G S
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 b C L G L U E T N L G M P Y V L Q N A H U
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```

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b      A E G H P T G C S P W T L M E Q A A H L
      TGGTCACTCAGGCACGGTCGCCCCCTCCGAGTGACCAGTAC
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      ACCAGTGAGTCCGTGCCAGCGGGGAGGCTCACTGGTCAGTG
b      W S L R H G R P S E *

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D: p150

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 Q L F S C P Q E L F V D T G A I V V F Q
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 V E T N S T A P H G G L R Q S Y E N V M
 GTTGTAGAGTCCCTGTGTGTGTGCGCAGAAAGCTCCCTCTTGTGAAAAATGCCCCGGCAGGG
 43600 +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 43659
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 N Y L G R N N R L L E E K N F F A R C P
 GCTGTAGAGGCCCCGGGACGGCCGTCTGGCGATAGGAGGAGTTGTACATGATGTACCCAG
 43660 +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 43719
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 S Y L G P V A T Q R Y S S N Y M I D G L
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 43780 +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 43839
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 R S H D Y I L G E A V E Q N Y N E C S V
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 43840 +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 43899
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[illegible]

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	CCACCGTGTAGGACCACGTACCACCGTGGTGGAGCGCCAGGGGGCATTITGTATACCTT	
	T A V D Q H M T A A V R P D G Y E M H E	
44620	AGGAATGGCGTGAAAGAGACACTGGGTGACGGCCCGGGTCCCTCTCGGAGAGGGCAAGGGC	44679
	TCCTTACCGCAGCTTTCTCTGTGACCCACTGCGGGGCCAGGAGAGCCTCTTCCGTTTCCG	
	P I A H E L C Q T V A R T R E S E A E A	
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	GTGGTGGGCAAGTGGTTTTGTGAGACGAGACAGGCGAAGAGCCGCGCCTAAGCCCCGGTC	
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	Q Q T V D N D V S V R V A R T E T P C T	
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	L L D R L T G N E L N D L I D E D R T E	
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	G L G C M H A N T C T P L E V Y Y E I K	
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 d M N G V R E I F Q P A A L T D A Y V E N
 45220 TCCGATAATAAICTGGGGGGCCCCGGTCACTAACGGTGAGAAGATGGGTGAAAATGTCTGT 45279
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 d G I I I Q P A R D S V T L L H T E I D T
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 d Y A V P P L L N P D L L A C V Y Q G V S
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 d H R C I F K I M S E S N V E A L R G S R
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 d E F Q Q G R A E Q E A A P A L F T P L N
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d	G V M L R H V A R H R A R E G A D R G I	
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d	CAITATAGTATTTCCCCACGTCGAGGTGCGCGTCGTCCAGTATTAACCTGCCACCTC	
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d	CTTCAGAAGCCACCCGTCGGGCGTGAAGTCTCGATATAGACAGTGCCCCCGACGTATGAA	
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d	CAATAGTAICTTGAGCAGGTGTATTGTTCGTGTAAGTACACTAAGCCCGAGGAGCACAAAC	
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d	GTCCCTCATCCAGAGCGCGGACAGAGCGCCCCGGCCCCGGCGCAACTCCGACAAATCCCA	
46060	ATGGGCGGGTGTGTGGAGTGGGGGTGACAGAGACCTTGAGAGGCATTCTGTAGGTTAAH	46110
d	TACCCGCCCACACACCTCAGCCCCCACTGTCTCTTGGAACTCTCGTAAGACATCCATTT	
46120	CGCGAGGAGAAGGTTATTCTTTGTTTACGATCCAAGCCTCCACGGGTAGCTGCTGTGTGGG	46170
d	GCGCTCCTCTTCCAATAAGAACAATGCTAGGTACGGAGGTGGCCATCGACGACACACC	
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46240	CACTGGGAANTAGTAGCTGTACTGCATTCTTCTGTGTGAGGGGGGTATGGGGACTGAGTGTG	46290
d	GTGACCCCTTTATCATCGACATGAAGTAAGAAAGACAACCTCCCCCATACCCCTGACTCACAG	
46300	ATTGTACATCTTTTGCAGGCTTTCCACGGCCACCGCTGGTTGGCCAGCTTGTATGACGGC	46350
d	TAACATGTAGAAAACGTCCGAAAGGTGCCGGTGGCGCACCAACGGGTCTGAAGTACTGCCG	
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d	CGCACTCTAGCCGTGGGCCCGGCTAGGAGCTGGGGACGCCGGTGTGACCCGTCCAGTCT	

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K S E G R E T F T P D A L T Q L I S M P
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 TCCCCGTACCGCTTCGAAGTGTGAGTCTGCCACAATTACTCCGGGGAGAGGTCCCCTAG

P A H R L K V S L V T N I L G R E L A D
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47020	+	CTGGCCCCAGAGCCCCCTATGATACGTCCTAGAGGCTCTAGGTCGTACCTGTCAAGGTAAGG	47079
d		V P T E P I S H L I E L D L M S L E M E	
47080	+	CGTACTAATGTGGTGTITGTGGCAATTTTTGACCACAATGAATGTCCGCTGCTTGCTGGG	47139
d		GCATGATTACACCACAAACACCGTTAAAACTGGTGTACTTACAGGCGACGAACGACCC	
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d		TCCTCTTCGTCCTCCGTGAGCAATGGTGGGGACGGAGATTCGAAATTGAATCTTGCCATC	
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d		R R G D G H A I T P V S I R F Q I K G D	
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d		GCAGTATGCTGAGTCCAGAACTTAAGGCACAAGTGTGTCTCTGTGCCGGTCACGGCAGAG	
47320	+	T M R S L D K F E T N V C S V A L A T E	47379
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47380	+	GTCCTTCGCTTGTATAACCTACCGCAAGCACAICTGGGGCTCATCGTGGAGTTTGAAC	47439
d		L F R V Y Q I A N T Y V G L L V E E K I	
47440	+	GGCCGCTCTCTGTGGCATCTTTGCCACCAGCGAGGTCAAAGCTAAGAAACAACCCCTCAGC	47496
d		CGGGCGGAGAGACCCTAGGAACGGGTGGTCGTCCAGTTTCGATACTTTGTTGGGGAGTCG	
47450	+	G A E R A D K G V L L D F S H F L G E A	47515
d		CGCTGACTGCGGAGGTTTCGAGAGCAGGTCGGCATCCACCGTCAGATAGGGGAGGGGCT	
47460	+	GCAGCTGACGGGCTCCAGGCTCTCGTCCAGCCGTAGGTGGCAGTCTATCCCTTCCCAGA	47574
d		A S R R L N S L L D A D V T L Y F F R	
47470	+	GTTTTCCACACCCCTCATTTGAGGGCATGACACAAGGTAAAGAGGGAGATGGGGGGAGG	47633
d		CAAAAGGTGTGGGAGTAACTCCGGTACTGTGTTCATTCTCCCTCTACCCCCCTCC	
47480	+	N S V G E N S A M	47692
d			

Figure 29:
Expression of the 8-gal::p150 fusion proteins

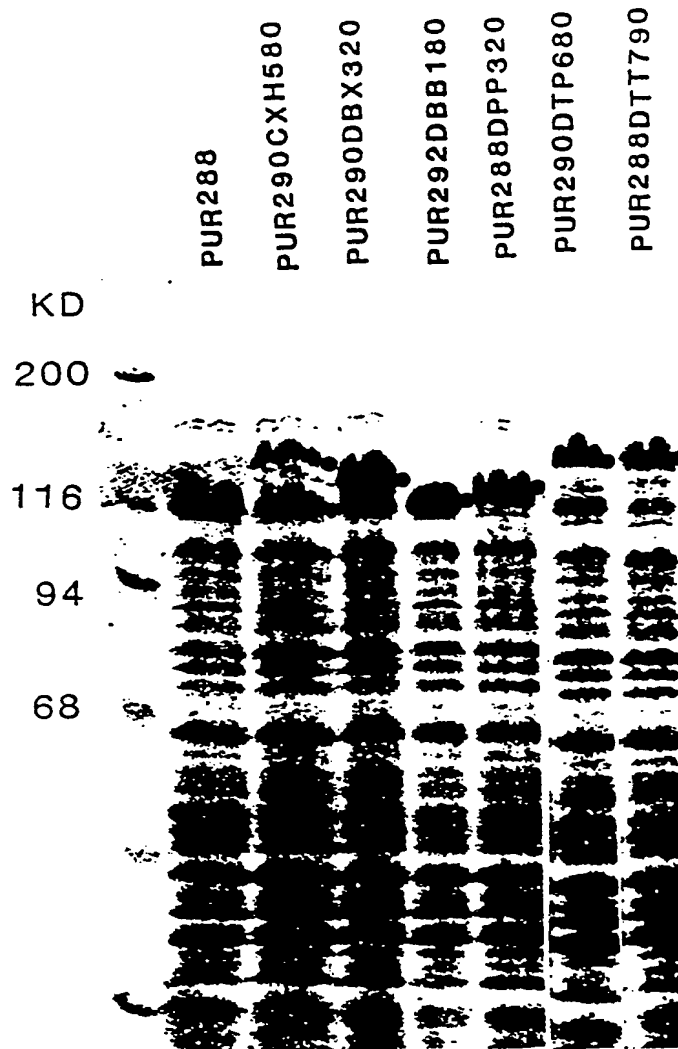
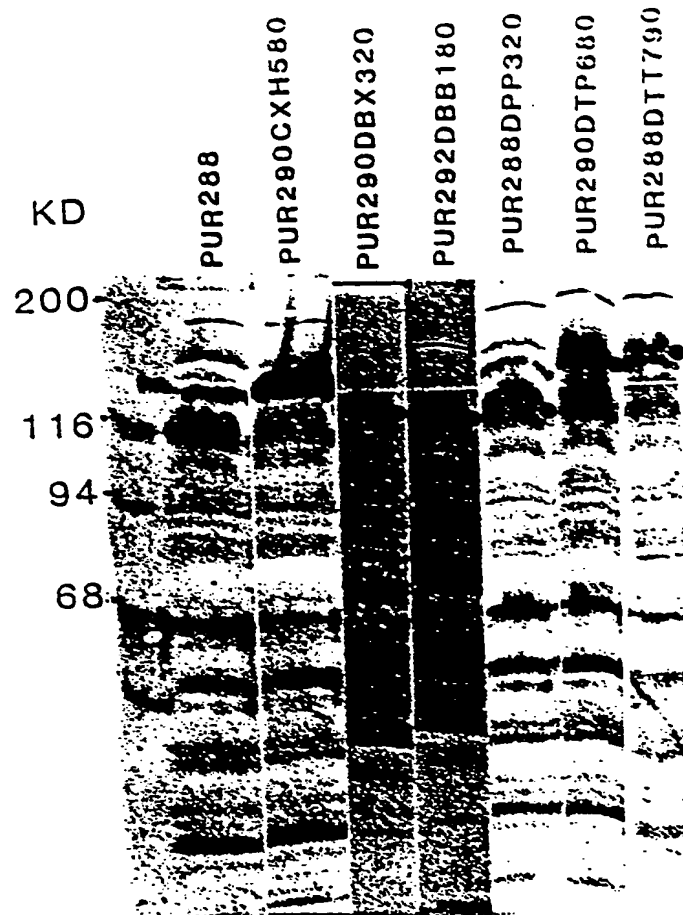
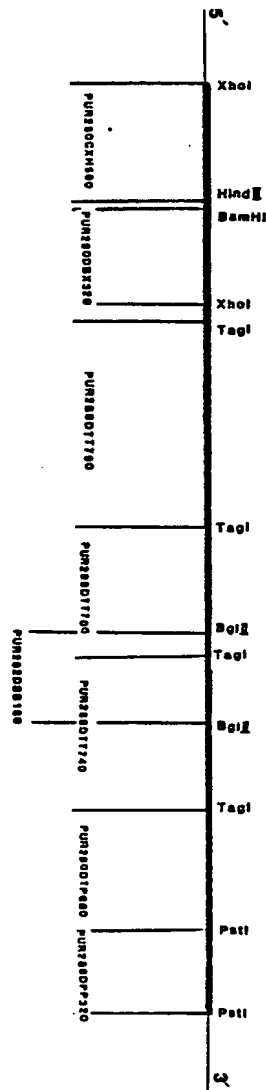


Figure 30:
Antigenicity of the 8-gal::p150 fusion proteins



Map of the p150 encoding region





European Patent Office

0173254

Application number:

85110565.0

**DECLARATION PURSUANT TO RULE 28, PARAGRAPH 4,
OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT CONVENTION**

The applicant has informed the European Patent Office that, until the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent or until the date on which the application has been refused or withdrawn or is deemed to be withdrawn, the availability of the micro-organism(s) identified below, referred to in paragraph 3 of Rule 28 of the European Patent Convention, shall be effected only by the issue of a sample to an expert.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICRO-ORGANISMS

Accession numbers of the deposits:

pUCARG 680

DSM 3408

0173254



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 85110565.0
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
F,X	EP - A2 - O 151 079 (THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO) * Claims 1-6 * --	1,12, 17,18, 24	C 12 N 15/00 C 12 P 19/34 C 12 N 7/00 C 12 N 1/20 C 12 N 1/16 C 12 N 5/00
D,A	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CANCER, vol. 23, no. 6, June 15, 1979, Helsinki L.F. QUALTIERE et al. "Epstein-Barr Virus-Induced Membrane Antigens: Immunochemical Characterisation of Triton X-100 Solubilized Viral Membrane Antigens from EBV-Superinfected Raji Cells" pages 808-817 * Totality * ----	1,19	C 12 P 21/02 C 07 K 13/00 A 61 K 39/245 G 01 N 33/53 C 07 K 17/00 //C 12 R 1:19 C 12 R 1:91
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			C 12 N C 12 P C 07 K A 61 K G 01 N
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely: -</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely: -</p> <p>Claims not searched: Claim 25</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>(Article 52(4) EPC)</p>			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 19-11-1985	Examiner WOLF
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			